



THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS.

VOL. XII.

*The Story of Prince Ahmed and the Fairy
Pari Banon.*



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second *Ali*, the youngest *Ahmed*, and the Princess his Niece * *Nouronihar*.

The Princess *Nouronihar* was the Daughter of a younger Brother of the Sultan's, to whom the Sultan in his Life-time allowed a considerable Revenue; but that Prince had not been married long, before he died and left the Princess very young. The Sultan, in Consideration that there was always a brotherly Love and Friendship between them, and that the Prince his Brother was attach'd to his Person, took upon himself the Care of his Daughter's Education, and brought her up in his Palace with the three Princes; where her Wit and Beauty, which were singular, and her Virtue distinguish'd her among all the Princesses of her Time.

The Sultan her Uncle propos'd to marry her, when she arriv'd at a proper Age, and to contract an Alliance with some neighbouring Prince by that Means: But when he perceiv'd, that the three Princes his Sons loved her passionately, he thought more seriously on that Affair. He was very much concern'd, but his Grief did not proceed from their Passions preventing his forming an Alliance he design'd: But the Difficulty he foresaw to make them agree, and that the two youngest should consent to yield her up to their elder Brother. He spok to each of them apart; and after having remonstrated the Impossibility of one Princess's being the Wife of three, and the Trouble they might create, if they persisted in their Passion; he did all he could to perswade them to come to stand to a Declaration of the Princess's in favour of one of them, or to desist from their Intentions, and to think of other Matches among the neighbouring Princes. But as he found them positively obstinate, he sent for them all together, and said to them, Children, since for your Good and Quiet I have not been able to perswade you no longer to aspire to the Princess your Cousin; and as I have no Inclination to make use of my Authority to give her to one preferable before the other two, I fancy I have thought of a proper Expedient, which will please you all, and preserve the Union among you, if you will but hear me, and do as

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* An Arabian Word that signifies Day-light.

I would have you. I think it would not be amiss, if every one travelled separately into different Countries, so that you might not meet each other; and as you know I am very curious, and delight in every thing that's singular, I promise my Niece in Marriage to him, that shall bring me the most extraordinary Rarity; and for the Purchase of the Rarity you shall go in search after, and the Expence of travelling, I will give you every one a Sum of Money agreeable to your Birth, which shall not belaid out in Equipage and Attendants; which by discovering who you were, would not only deprive you of the Liberty to acquit yourselves of the Inquiry you go about, but prevent your observing those things, which merit the most your Attention, and may be the most useful to you.

As the three Princes were always submissive and obedient to the Sultan's Will, and each flatter'd himself, Fortune might prove favourable to him, and give him the Possession of the Princess *Nouronihar*, they all consented to it. The Sultan paid them the Money he promised them; and that very Day they gave Orders for the Preparations for their Travels, and took their Leaves of the Sultan, that they might be the more ready to go the next Morning. Accordingly they all set out at the same Gate of the City, each dress'd like a Merchant attended by an Officer of Confidence dress'd like a Slave, and all well mounted and equipt. They went the first Day's Journey together, and lay all at an Inn, where the Road was divided into three different Tracts. At Night, when they were at Supper together, they all agreed to travel for a Year, and to make that Inn their Rendezvous; and that the first that came, should wait for the rest; that as they had all three taken their Leaves together of the Sultan, they might all return together. The next Morning by break of Day, after they had embraced and wish'd each other reciprocally good Success, they mounted their Horses, and took a different Road.

Prince *Houssain* the eldest Brother, who had heard Wonders of the Grandeur, Strength, Riches and Splendour of the Kingdom of *Bishagar*, bent his Course towards the Indian Coast; and after three Months travelling joyning himself to different Caravans, sometimes over Deserts and barren Mountains, and sometimes thro' rich fertile Countries,

tries, arrived at *Bisnagar* the Capital of the Kingdom of that Name, and the Residence of its Kings. He went and lodg'd at a *Khan* appointed for foreign Merchants, and having learnt, that there were four principal Divisions, where Merchants of all Sorts sold their Commodities and kept Shops, and in the midst of which stood the Castle, or rather the King's Palace, on a large Extent of Ground, as the Center of the City, and surrounded with three Works, and two Leagues distant from one Gate to another, he went to one of these Divisions the next Day.

Prince *Houssain* could not view this Division without Admiration: It was large, and divided into several Streets, all vaulted and shaded from the Sun, and yet very light too. The Shops were all of a Size and just Symmetry, and all that dealt in the same sort of Goods liv'd in one Street, as also the Handicrafts Men, who kept their Shops in the smaller Streets.

The Multitude of Shops stock'd with all sorts of Merchandizes, as the finest Linnens from severall Parts of *India*, some painted in the most lively Colours, and representing Beasts, Trees and Flowers; Silks and Brocades from *Persia*, *China*, and other Places; Porcelain both from *Japan* and *China*, and Tapestries, surprized him so much, that he knew not how to believe his own Eyes; but when he came to the Goldsmiths and Jewellers (for those two Trades were exercised by the same Merchants) he was in a kind of Extasy, to behold such prodigious Quantities of wrought Gold and Silver, and was dazzled by the Lustre of Pearls, Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, and other Jewels exposed to Sale. But if he was so much amazed at the Richness of one Place, he was much more surprized, when he came to judge of the Wealth of the whole Kingdom, by considering, that except the *Bramins* and Ministers of the Idols, who profess a retired Life, there was nor an *Indian*, thro' the Extent of that Kingdom, Man nor Woman, but what wore Necklaces, Bracelets and Ornaments about their Legs and Feet, of Pearls, and other Jewels, which appeared with the greater Lustre, as they were Blacks.

Another thing Prince *Houssain* particularly admired, was the great Number of Rose-sellers, who crowded the Streets; for the *Indians* are so great Lovers of that Flower, that not one will stir without a Nosegay in his Hand,

or a Garland on his Head; and the Merchants keep them in Pots in their Shops, that the Air is perfectly perfumed.

After Prince *Houssain* had run thro' that Division, Street by Street, his Thoughts fully employ'd in the Riches he had seen, he was very much tir'd; which a Merchant perceiving, civilly invited him to sit down in his Shop, and he accepted of; but had not been sat down long, before he saw a Crier pass by with a piece of Tapestry on his Arm about six Foot square, and cry'd it at thirty Purles. The Prince call'd to the Cryer, and ask'd him to see the Tapestry, which seemed to him to be valued at an exorbitant Price, not only for the Size of it, but the Meanness of the Stuff; when he had examined it well, he told the Cryer, that he could not comprehend how so small a Piece of Tapestry, and of so indifferent Appearance, could be set at so high a Price?

The Cryer, who took him for a Merchant, reply'd, 'If this Price seems so extravagant to you. your Amusement will be greater, when I tell you, I have Orders to raise it to forty Purles, and not to part with it under. Certainly, answered Prince *Houssain*, it must have something very extraordinary in it, which I know nothing of. You have guessed it, Sir, reply'd the Cryer, and will own it, when you come to know, that whoever sits on this piece of Tapestry, may be transported in an Instant, wherever he desires to be, without being stop'd by any Obstacle.

At this Discourse of the Cryer, the Prince of the *Indies* considering, that the principal Motive of his Travel, was to carry the Sultan his Father Home some singular Rarity, thought, that he could not meet with any, which could give him more Satisfaction. If the Tapestry, said he to the Cryer, has the Virtue you assign it, I shall not think forty Purles too much, but shall make you a present besides. Sir, reply'd the Cryer, I have told you the Truth, and its uneasy Matter to convince you of it, as soon as you have made the Bargain for forty Purles, on Condition I shew you the Experiment: But as I suppose, you have not so much about you, and to receive them, I must go with you to your *Khan* where you lodge; with the Leave of the Master of the Shop, we will go into the back Shop, and I will spread the Tapestry, and when we have both sat down, and you have formed the Wish to be transported into

into your Apartment in the *Khan*, if we are not transported thither, it shall be no Bargain, and you shall be at your Liberty. As to your present, tho' I am paid for my Trouble by the Seller, I shall receive it as a Favour, and be very much obliged to you, and thankful.

On the Credit of the Cryer, the Prince accepted the Conditions, and concluded the Bargain, and having got the Master's Leave, they went into his back Shop, they both sat down on it, and as soon as the Prince form'd his Wish, to be transported into his Apartment at the *Khan*, he presently found himself and the Cryer there in the same situation; and as he wanted not a more sufficient Proof of the Virtue of the Tapestry, he counted the Cryer out forty Purse in Gold, and gave him twenty pieces for himself.

In this Manner Prince *Houffain* became the Possessor of the Tapestry, and was overjoyed, that at his Arrival at *Bishnagar*, he had found so rare a piece, which he never disputed would gain him the Possession of *Nouromnihar*. In short, he looked upon it as an impossible Thing for the Princes, his younger Brothers, to meet with any Thing to be compared with it. It was in his Power by sitting on his Tapestry, to beat the Place of Rendezvous, that very Day: But as he was obliged to stay there for his Brothers, as they had agreed: But as he was curious to see the King of *Bishnagar*, and his Court; and to inform himself of the Strength, Laws, Customs, and Religion of the Kingdom, he chose to make a longer Abode there, and to spend some Months in satisfying his Curiosity.

It was a Custom of the King of *Bishnagar*, to give all strange Merchants Access to his Person once a Week; and by that Title Prince *Houffain*, who would not be known, saw him often: And as this Prince was handsome, witty, and extreme polite, he easily distinguished himself among the Merchants, and was preferred before them all by the Sultan, who addressed himself to him to be inform'd of the Sultan of the *Indies* Person, and of the Government, Strength, and Riches of his Dominions.

The rest of his Time the Prince spent in seeing what was most remarkable, in and about the City, and among those Things, which were most worthy of Admiration, he

he visited a Temple of Idols, which was built all of Brass. It was about ten Cubits square, and fifteen high, and that which was the greatest Ornament to it, was an Idol, the Height of a Man, of massy Gold; its Eyes were two Rubies, set so artificially, that it seemed to look at those, who looked at it, which Side soever they stood: Besides this, there was another no less curious, in a Village, in the midst of a Plain, of ten Arches, which was a delicious Garden full of Roses, and the choicest Flowers, surrounded with a small Wall, Breast high, to keep Cattle out. In the midst of this Plain was raised a Terrass, a Man's Height, so nicely paved, that the whole Pavement seem'd to be but one single Stone. A Temple was erected in the middle of this Terrass, with a Dome about fifty Cubits high, and might be seen for several Leagues about. It was thirty Cubits long, and twenty broad; the Marble, of which it was built, was red, and extremely well polished. The Inside of the Dome was adorned with three Rows of fine Paintings: And in short, there was not a Place in the whole Temple, but what was embellished with *Basso Relievos*, and Figures of Idols, from Top to Bottom.

Every Night and Morning there were superstitious Ceremonies performed in this Temple, which were always succeeded with Sports, Concerts of Musick, Dancing, Singing, and Feasts. The Ministers of the Temple, and the Inhabitants of the Place, had nothing to subsist on, but the Offerings of Pilgrims, who came in Numbers from the most distant Parts of the Kingdom, to perform their Vows.

Besides all this, Prince *Houssain* was a Spectator of a solemn Feast, which was celebrated every Year at the Court of *Bisnagar*, at which all the Governors of Provinces and fortified Places, all Governors and Judges of Towns, and the most celebrated *Bramins* were obliged to be present; and some lived so far off, that they were four Months in coming. This Assembly composed of such an innumerable Multitude of *Indians*, met in a Plain, of a vast Extent, was a glorious Sight. In the Center of this Plain was erected a large Scaffolding, of nine Rows of Benches, inclosed on one Side by a fine Building, and supported by forty Pillars. This Place was raised for the King and his Court, and those Strangers he admitted to the Audience
once

once a Week : Within it was adorn'd and furnished magnificently; and on the Outside were painted fine Landskips, wherein all Sorts of Beasts, Birds, and Insects, so much, as Flies, were drawn very natural. Three other Scaffolds of about four or five Benches, and painted almost all alike, formed the other three Sides. But what was more particular in these Scaffolds, they could make them change their Situation every Hour.

On each Side of this place, at some Distance from each other, were ranged great Numbers of Elephants, sumptuously harness'd, and each loaded with a wooden Castle upon his Back, finely gilt, within each of which were Musicians and Stage-players: The Trunks, Ears, and Bodies of these Elephants, were painted with Cinnabar, in which were represented Grotesque Figures.

But what Prince *Houssain* most of all admired, was the ingenious Address and Invention of the *Indians*, to make a large Elephant stand with his four Feet on a Post, which was fixed into the Earth, and stood out of it above two Foot, and beat Time, with his Trunk, to the Musick. Besides this there was another Elephant as big as this, and no less surprizing, which being set upon a Board, which was laid a-cross a strong Rail about ten Foot high, with a great Weight at the other End, which ballanced him, kept Time by the Motions of his Body, and Trunk, with the Musick, as well as the other Elephant, and both in the Presence of the King and his whole Court.

Prince *Houssain* might have made a longer Abode in the Kingdom and Court of *Eisnagar*, where he might have been agreeably diverted, till the Day he and his Prothers had appointed to meet on: But he was so well satisfied with what he had seen; and his Thoughts ran so much upon the Object of his Love; that after his good Success in meeting with this Tapestry, the Beauty and Charms of the Princess *Nouronihar* increased every Day the Violence of his Passion, and he fancied, he should be the more ealy and happy, the nearer he was to her. After he had satisfied the Master of the *Khan* for his Apartment, and told him the Hour when he might come for the Key; he shut his Door, put the Key on the Outside, and spreading the Tapestry he and the Officer he had brought with him, sat down, and as soon as he had formed his Wish, were transported to the Inn.

Inn, at which he and his Brothers were to meet, and where he passed for a Merchant, till they came.

Prince *Ali*, Prince *Houffain*'s second Brother, who designed to travel into *Persia*, to conform himself to the Intention of the Sultan of the *Indies*, took the Road, having three Days, after he parted with his Brothers, joined a Caravan, and after four Days Travel arrived at *Schiraz*, which was the Capital of the Kingdom of *Persia*; and having in the Way contracted a Friendship with some Merchants passed for a Jeweller, and lodged in the same *Khan* with them.

The next Morning, while the Merchants opened their Bales of Merchandizes, Prince *Ali*, who travelled only for his Pleasure, and had brought nothing but just Necessaries, along with him, after he had dressed himself, took a Walk into that part of the Town, which they at *Schiraz* call the *Bezestein*; which was a spacious and well built place, it being arched, and those Arches supported by large Pillars, round which, as well as the Walls, there were fine furnished Shops of Jewellers, Gold-Smiths, and Traders in Gold and Silver Brocades, rich Silks, fine Linens, and other choice valuable Merchandices. Prince *Ali* soon rambled through all the *Bezestein*, and with Admiration, judged of the Riches of the place, by the prodigious Quantities of the most precious Merchandices that were exposed to View.

But among all the Cryers, who passed backwards and forwards, with several Sorts of Goods, offering to sell them, he was not a little surprized, to see one, who held an Ivory Prospective Glass in his Hand, of about a Foot in Length, and the Thickness of a Man's Thumb, and cried it at thirty Purfes. At first he thought the Cryer mad, and to inform himself, went to a Shop, and said to the Merchant, who stood at the Door, Pray, Sir, is not that Man, (pointing to the Cryer, who cried the Ivory Prospective Glass at thirty Purfes,) mad? if he is not, I am very much deceived. Indeed, Sir, answered the Merchant, he was in his right Senses Yesterday, and I can assure you, he is one of the ablest Cryers we have, and the most employed of any, he being to be confided in, when any Thing valuable is to be sold; and if he cries the Ivory Prospective Glass at thirty Purfes, it must be worth as much, or more, on some

some Account or other : He'll come by presently, and we will call him, and you shall be satisfied ; in the mean Time, sit down on my *Sofa*, and rest your self.

Prince *Ali* accepted of the Merchant's obliging Offer, and presently afterwards the Cryer passed by : The Merchant called him by his Name, and pointing to the Prince, said to him, Tell that Gentleman, who asked me if you were in your right Senses, what you mean by crying that Ivory Prospective Glass, which seems not to be worth much, at thirty Purfes? I should be very much amazed my self, if I did not know you. The Cryer addressing himself to Prince *Ali* said, Sir, you are not the only Person, that takes me for a mad Man, on the Account of this Prospective Glass; You shall judge your self, whether I am, or no, when I have told you its Property; and I hope, you will value it at as high a Price, as those I have shewed it to already, who had as bad an Opinion of me as you.

First Sir, pursued the Cryer, presenting the Ivory Pipe to the Prince, observe, that this Pipe is furnished with a Glass at both Ends, and consider, that by looking through one of them, you see whatever Object you wish to behold. I am, said the Prince, ready to make you all imaginable Reparation for the Scandal I have thrown on you, if you will make the Truth of what you advance appear; and as he had the Ivory Pipe in his Hand, after he had looked at the two Glasses, he said, shew me at which of these Ends I must look, that I may be satisfied. The Cryer presently shewed him, and he looked through, wishing at the same Time to see the Sultan his Father, whom he immediately beheld in perfect Health, set on his Throne in the midst of his Council. Afterwards, as there was nothing in the World so dear to him, after the Sultan, as the Princess *Nouronibar*, he wished to see her, and saw her at her Toilet laughing, and in a pleasant Humour, with her Women about her.

Prince *Ali* wanted no other Proof to be perswaded, that this Prospective Glass was the most valuable Thing in the World, and believed, that if he should neglect to purchase it, he should never meet again with such another Rarity; therefore said to the Cryer, I am very sorry, that I should have entertained so bad an Opinion of you, but hope to make you amends by buying the Glass, for I should be very well

well pleased with it ; so tell me the just Value, and the lowest Prince the Seller has fixed upon it ; and do not give your self any farther Trouble to hawk it about, but go with me, and I'll pay you the Money. The Cryer assured him, with an Oath, that his last Orders were to take no less than forty Purfes, and if he disputed the Truth of what he said, he would carry him to him. The Prince believed him, took him with him to the *Khan*, where he lodged, and told him out the Money, and received the Prospective Glass.

Prince *Ali* was overjoyed at his Bargain, and perswaded himself, that as his Brothers would not be able to meet with any Thing so rare and admirable, the Prince's *Nouronihar* would be the Recompence of his Fatigue and Trouble ; that he thought of nothing but visiting the Court of *Persia* incognito, and seeing whatever was curious in *Schiraz*, and thereabouts, till the Caravan, with which he came, returned back to the *Indies*. As soon as the Caravan was ready to set out, the Prince joined them, and arrived happily without any Accident, or Trouble, otherways than the Length of the Journey and Fatigue of Travelling, at the Place of Rendezvouz, where he found Prince *Houssain*, and both waited for Prince *Ahmed*.

Prince *Ahmed*, who took the Road of *Samarcande*, the next Day after his Arrival there, went, as his Brothers had done into the *Bezestein*, where he had not walked long, but he heard a Cryer, who had an artificial Apple in his Hand, cry it at five and thirty Purfes : Upon which he stopp'd the Cryer, and said to him, Let me see that Apple, and tell me, what Virtue and extraordinary Properties it has, to be valued at so high a Rate. Sir, said the Cryer, giving it into his Hand, if you look at the Outside of this Apple, it is very inconsiderable, but if you consider its Properties, Virtues, and the great Use and Benefit it is of to Mankind ; you'll say, it is no Price for it, and that he who possesses it is Master of a great Treasure. In short, it cures all sick Persons of the most mortal Diseases, whether Fevers, Pleurifies, Plagues, and other malignant Distempers ; and if the Patient is dying, it will recover him immediately, and restore him to perfect Health ; and this is done after the easiest Manner in the World, which is by the Patient's smelling the Apple.

If I may believe you, replied Prince *Ahmed*, the Virtues of this Apple are wonderful, and it is invaluable; But what Ground have I, for all you tell me, to be perswaded of the Truth of this Matter? Sir, replied the Cryer, the Thing is known and averred by the whole City of *Samarcande*; but without going any farther, ask all these Merchants you see here, and hear what they say; you will find several of them will tell you, they had not been alive this Day, if they had not made use of this excellent Remedy; and that you may the better comprehend what it is, I must tell you, it is the Fruit of the Study and Experiments of a celebrated Philosopher of this City, who applied himself all his Life-time to the Study and Knowledge of the Virtues of Plants and Minerals, and at last attained to this Composition, by which he performed such surprizing Cures in this Town, as will never be forgot; but died suddenly himself, before he could apply this Sovereign Remedy; and left his Wife, and a great many young Children behind him, in very indifferent Circumstances, who to support her Family, and provide for her Children, is resolved to sell it.

While the Cryer informed Prince *Ahmed* of the Virtues of the artificial Apple, a great many Persons came about them, and confirmed what he said; and one among the rest said, he had a Friend dangerously ill, whose Life was despaired of; and that was a favourable Opportunity to shew Prince *Ahmed* the Experiment: Upon which Prince *Ahmed* told the Cryer he would give him forty Purfes, if he was sensible, it cured the Person.

The Cryer, who had Orders to sell it at that Price, said to Prince *Ahmed*. Come, Sir, let us go, and make the Experiment, and the Apple shall be yours; and I can assure you, that it will always have the desired Effect. In short, the Experiment succeeded, and the Prince, after he had counted out to the Cryer forty Purfes, and he had delivered the Apple to him, waited patiently for the first Caravan, that should return to the *Indies*. In the mean Time, he saw all that was curious, at, and about *Samarcande*, and principally the Valley of *Soyda*, so called from the River, which waters it; and is reckoned by the *Arabians*, to be one of the four Paradises of this World for the Beauty of its Fields and Gardens, and fine Palaces, and for its Fertility in Fruit.

At last Prince *Ahmed* joined himself to the first Caravan that returned to the *Indies*, and notwithstanding the inevitable Fatigues in so long a Journey, arrived in perfect Health, at the Inn, where the Princes *Houssain* and *Ali* waited for him.

Prince *Ali*, who came there some Time before Prince *Ahmed*, asked Prince *Houssain*, who got thither the first? how long he had been there? who told him, three Months; to which he replied, then certainly you have not been very far. I will tell you nothing now, said Prince *Houssain*, but only assure you, I was above three Months travelling to the Place I went to: But then, replied Prince *Ali*, you made a short Abode there. Indeed, Brother, said Prince *Houssain*, you are mistaken, I resided at one Place above four or five Months, and might have stayed longer. Unless you flew back, replied Prince *Ali* again, I cannot comprehend, how you can have been three Months here, as you would make me believe.

I tell you the Truth, added Prince *Houssain*, and 'tis a Riddle, which I shall not explain to you, till our Brother *Ahmed* comes; when I will let you know, what Rarities I have brought home from my Travels. For your Part, I know what you have got, but believe it to be some Trifle, because I do not perceive, that your Baggage is increased: And pray, what have you brought, reply'd Prince *Ali*; for I can see nothing but an ordinary Piece of Tapestry, with which you cover your *Sofa*; and therefore think, I may return your Railing, and as you seem to make what you have brought, a Secret, you cannot take it amiss, that I do the same.

I look upon the Rarity I have purchased, reply'd Prince *Houssain*, to excel all others whatever, and should not make any Difficulty to shew it you, and make you own it to be so; and at the same Time tell you, how I came by it, without being in the least Apprehension, that that which you have got, is to be preferred to it: But it is proper, that we should stay, till our Brother *Ahmed* arrives, that we may all communicate our good Fortunes to each other.

Prince *Ali* would not enter into a Dispute with Prince *Houssain*, on the Preference he gave his Rarity, but was satisfied and perswaded, that if his Perspective Glass was
not

not preferable, it was impossible it should be inferior to it; and therefore agreed to stay till Prince *Ahmed* arrived, to produce their Purchase.

When Prince *Ahmed* came to his two Brothers, and they had embraced with Tenderneſs and Complements, each other, on their Happineſs of Meeting together at the ſame Place they ſet out at; Prince *Houſſain* as the elder Brother, aſſumed the Diſcourſe, and ſaid to them: Brothers, we ſhall have Time enough hereafter, to entertain our ſelves with the Particulars of our Travels: But now let us come to that, which is of the greateſt Importance for us to know, and as I do not diſpute, but that you remember, as well as me, the principal Motive which engaged us to travel; therefore let us not conceal from each other, our Curioſities, but ſhew them, that we may gueſs and judge, as near as poſſible, to which the Sultan our Father may give the Preference.

To ſet you an Example, continu'd Prince *Houſſain*, I'll tell you, that the Rarity, which I have brought from my Travels to the Kingdom of *Biſnagar*, is the Tapeſtry on which I fit, which looks but ordinary, and makes no Shew, but when I have declared its Virtue to you, you will be ſtruck with Admiration, and will confeſs you never heard of any Thing like it. In ſhort, whoever ſits on it, as we do, and deſires to be transported to any Place, be it ever ſo far off, is immediately carried thither. I made the Experiment my ſelf, before I paid down forty Purſes, which I gave for it; and when I had fully ſatiſfied my Curioſity, at the Court of *Biſnagar*, and had a Mind to return, I made uſe of no other Carriage, than this wonderful Tapeſtry, for my ſelf and Servant, who can tell you, how long we were a coming hither. I'll ſhew you both the Experiment, when you think fit; and now expect that you ſhould let me know, what you have brought, that is to be compared with this Tapeſtry.

Here Prince *Houſſain* made an End, commending the Excellency of his Tapeſtry, and Prince *Ali* addreſſing himſelf to him, ſaid, I muſt own, Brother, that your Tapeſtry is one of the moſt ſurprizing things imaginable, if it has, as I do not doubt in the leaſt, that Property you ſpeak of: But you muſt allow, that there may be other Things, I will not ſay more, but at leaſt as wonderful, of another Kind;

Kind; and to shew you, that there are, here is an Ivory Prospective Glafs, which appears no more a Rarity, than your Tapestry, and yet merits as much Attention, and cost me as much; and you will be so just as to own, that I am not bit, when you know by Experience, that by looking at one End, you see whatever Object you wish to behold. I would not have you take my Word, added Prince *Ali*, presenting the Prospective Glafs to him, but make a Tryal of it your self.

Prince *Houssain* took the Glafs from Prince *Ali*, and clap'd that End to his Eye, which Prince *Ali* shewed him, with an Intention to see the Princess *Nouronihar*, and to know how she did; when Prince *Ali*, and Prince *Ahmed*, who kept their Eyes fix'd upon him, were extremely surprized to see his Countenance change in such a Manner, as expressed an extraordinary Surprize and Affliction; Prince *Houssain* would not give them Time to ask, what was the Matter? but cry'd out, Alas! Princess, to what Purpose have we undertaken so long and fatiguing Journies, but with the Hopes of being recompenced by the Possession of the charming *Nouronihar*, when in a few Moments that lovely Princess will breath her last. I saw her in Bed, surrounded by her Women and Eunuchs, who were all in Tears, and seem to expect nothing less than her giving up the Ghost: Take the Glafs, see your selves the miserable State she is in; and mingle your Tears with mine.

Prince *Ali* took the Glafs out of Prince *Houssain's* Hand, and after he had seen the same Object, with a sensible Grief, presented it to Prince *Ahmed*, who also took it, to behold the melancholy Sight, which so much concern'd them,

When Prince *Ahmed* had taken the Glafs out of Prince *Ali's* Hands, and saw, that the Princess *Nouronihar's* End was so near, he address'd himself to his two Brothers, and said, Princes, the Princess *Nouronihar*, equally the Object of our Vows, is indeed, just at Death's Door; but provided we make haste, and lose no Time, we may preserve her Life. Then he took the Artificial Apple out of his Bosom, and shewing it to the Princes, his Brothers, said to them, This Apple, which you see here, cost me as much and more, than either the Tapestry, or Prospective Glafs, and the

the Opportunity, that presents it self, to shew you its wonderful Virtue, makes me not regret the price I gave for it : But not to keep you longer in Suspence; it has the Virtue, if a sick Person smells to it, tho' in the last Agonies, to restore him to perfect Health immediately : I have made the Experiment, and can shew its wonderful Effect, on the Person of the Princess *Nou-ronnihar*, if you will make all the Haste imaginable to assist her.

If that's all, reply'd Prince *Houssain*, we cannot make more, than by transporting our selves instantly into her Chamber, by the Means of my Tapestry. Come, lose no Time, but sit down by me; it is large enough to hold us all three : But first let us give Orders to our Servants to set out immediately, and come to us, to the Palace.

As soon as the Order was given, Prince *Ali* and Prince *Ahmed* went and sat down by Prince *Houssain*, and as their Interest was the same, they all three fram'd the same Wish, and were transported into the Princess *Nou-ronnihar*'s Chamber.

The presence of the three Princes, who were so little expected, frightened the Princess's Women and Eunuchs, who could not comprehend by what Inchantment three Men should be among them; for they did not know them at first; and the Eunuchs were ready to fall upon them, as People, who had penetrated into the place, where they were not allowed to come; but they presently recollected themselves, and found the Mistake.

Prince *Ahmed* no sooner perceived himself in *Nou-ronnihar*'s Chamber, and perceiving that dying Princess, but he rose off the Tapestry, as also did the other two Princes, and went to the Bed Side, and put the Apple under her Nose; some Moments after, the Princess opened her Eyes, and turned her Head from one Side to the other, looking at the Persons who stood about her; and then rose up an end in Bed, and asked to be dress'd, just as if she had waked out of a strong Sleep. Her Women having presently informed her, in a manner that shewed their Joy, that she was obliged to the three Princes for that sudden Recovery of her Health,

and particularly to Prince *Ahmed*; she immediately expressed a Joy to see them, and thanked them all together; and afterwards Prince *Ahmed* in particular. The Princes told her, how great a Pleasure it was to them, to come soon enough to contribute any Thing towards relieving her out of the imminent Danger she was in; and that they had made the most ardent Wishes for her Health; and afterwards, as she had called to be got up, they retired.

While the Princess was dressing, the Princes went to throw themselves at the Sultan their Father's Feet, and pay their Respects to him; but when they came before him, they found he had been inform'd of their Arrival by the Chief of the Princess's Eunuchs, and by what Means the Princess had been perfectly cured. The Sultan receiv'd and embraced them with the greatest Joy, both for their Return, and the Recovery of the Princess his Niece, whom he loved as well as if she had been his own Daughter, and which had been given over by the Physicians. After the usual Ceremonies and Compliments, the Princes presented each his Rarity: Prince *Houssain* his Tapestry, which he had taken care not to leave behind him in the Princess's Chamber; Prince *Ali* his Ivory prospective Glass, and Prince *Ahmed* his artificial Apple; and after each had commended their Present, when they put it into the Sultan's Hands, they beg'd of him to pronounce their Fate, and declare to which of them he would give the Princess *Nouronihar* for a Wife, according to his Promise.

The Sultan of the *Indies* having heard without interrupting them, all that the Princes could represent further about their Rarities, and being well inform'd of what had happen'd in relation to the Princess *Nouronihar*'s Cure, remain'd some Time silent, as if he was thinking on what Answer he should make. At last he broke Silence, and said to them: I would declare for one of you, Children, with a great deal of Pleasure, if I could do it with Justice; but consider whether I can do it, or no. 'Tis true, Prince *Ahmed*, the Princess my Niece is oblig'd to your artificial Apple for her Cure; but I must ask you, whether or no you could have been so serviceable to her, if you had not known

by Prince *Ali*'s Prospective Glass the Danger she was in, and Prince *Houffain*'s Tapestry had not brought you so soon. Your Prospective Glass, Prince *Ali*, inform'd you and your Brothers, that you were like to lose the Princess your Cousin: And there you must own a great Obligation. You must also grant, that that Knowledge would have been of no Service, without the artificial Apple and the Tapestry. And lastly, Prince *Houffain*, the Princess would be very ungrateful, if she should not shew her Acknowledgment of the Service of your Tapestry, which was so necessary a Means towards her Cure. But consider, it would have been of little Use, if you had not been acquainted with the Princess's Illness by Prince *Ali*'s Glass, and Prince *Ahmed* had not apply'd his artificial Apple. Therefore, as neither Tapestry, Ivory prospective Glass, nor artificial Apple have the least preference one before the other, but on the contrary, there's a perfect Equality, I cannot grant the Princess to any one of you: And the only Fruit you have reaped from your Travels, is the Glory of having equally contributed to restore her Health.

If all this is true, added the Sultan, you see, that I must have Recourse to other Means, to determine certainly in the Choice I ought to make among you; and as there is time enough between this and Night, I'll do it to-day. Go and get each of you a Bow and Arrow, and repair to the Great Plain, where they exercise Horses; I'll soon come to you, and declare, I will give the Princess *Nouromihar* to him that shoots the farthest.

But however, I do not forget to thank you all in general, and each in particular, for the Present you brought me. I have a great many Rarities in my Closet already, but nothing that comes up to the Singularity of the Tapestry, the Ivory prospective Glass and artificial Apple, which shall have the first places among them, and shall be preserv'd carefully, not only for pure Curiosity, but to make an advantageous Use of them upon all Occasions.

The three Princes had nothing to say against this Decision of the Sultan. When they were out of his Presence, they each provided themselves with a Bow and Arrow, which they deliver'd to one of their Officers,

and went to the Plain appointed, followed by a great Concourse of People.

The Sultan did not make them wait long for him; and as soon as he arrived, Prince *Houssain* as the Eldest took his Bow and Arrow, and shot first; Prince *Ali* shot next, and much beyond him; and Prince *Ahmed* last of all; but it so happen'd, that no body could see where his Arrow fell: And notwithstanding all the Diligence that was used by himself and every body else, it was not to be found far or near. And tho' it was believed that he shot the furthest, and that he therefore deserved the Princess *Nouronnihar*, it was however necessary that his Arrow should be found, to make the Matter more evident and certain: And notwithstanding his Remonstrance, the Sultan judg'd in favour of Prince *Ali*, and gave Orders for Preparations to be made for the Solemnizing of the Nuptials, which were celebrated a few Days after with great Magnificence.

Prince *Houssain* would not honour the Feast with his Presence, his Passion for the Princess *Nouronnihar* was so sincere and lively, that he could scarce support with Patience the Mortification of seeing the Princess in the Arms of Prince *Ali*; who, he said, did not deserve her better, or loved her truer, than himself. In short, his Grief was so violent and insupportable, that he left the Court, and renounced all Right of Succession to the Crown, to turn *Dervise*, and put himself under the Discipline of a famous *Scheikh*, who had gain'd a great Reputation for his exemplary Life, and had taken up his Abode and that of his Disciples, whose Number was great, in an agreeable Solitude.

Prince *Ahmed* urged by the same Motive, did not assist at Prince *Ali* and the Princess *Nouronnihar*'s Nuptials any more than his Brother *Houssain*, but did not renounce the World, as he had done. But as he could not imagine what could become of his Arrow, he stole away from his Attendants, and resolv'd to search after it, that he might not have any thing to reproach himself with. With this Intent he went to the Place, where the Princes *Houssain*'s and *Ali*'s were gathered up, and going strait forwards from thence, looking carefully on both Sides of him, he went so far, that at last he be-

gan to think this Labour was all in vain, but yet could not help going forwards, till he came to some steep craggy Rocks, which were Bounds to his Journey, and were situated in a barren Country, about four Leagues distant, from whence he set out.

When Prince *Ahmed* came pretty nigh these Rocks, he perceiv'd an Arrow which he gather'd up, look'd earnestly at, and was in the greatest Astonishment to find that it was the same he shot away. Certainly, said he to himself, neither I, nor any Man living, could throw an Arrow so far. And finding it laid flat, not sticking into the Ground; he judg'd that it rebounded against the Rock. There must be some Mystery in this, said he to himself again, and it may be advantageous to me: Perhaps Fortune, to make me amends for depriving me of what I thought the greatest Happiness, may have reserved a greater Blessing for my Comfort.

As these Rocks were very much indented, and some of those Indentures were deep, the Prince full of these Thoughts enter'd into one, and looking about cast his Eyes on an Iron Door which seem'd to have no Lock, but at the same Time fear'd it was fasten'd; however, thrusting against it, it open'd and discover'd an easie Descent, but no Steps, which he walk'd down, with the Arrow in his Hand. At first he thought he was going into a dark obscure Place; but presently a quite different Light succeeded that which he came out of, and entering into a large spacious place, at about fifty or sixty Paces distant, perceiv'd a magnificent Palace, the Structure admirable, which he had not then Time enough to look at. At the same Time, a Lady of a Majestick Port and Air, and of a Beauty the Richness of her Cloaths and Jewels were no Advantage to, advanced as far as the Porch, attended by a large Troop of Ladies so finely dress'd and beautiful, that it was difficult to distinguish which was the Mistress.

As soon as Prince *Ahmed* perceived the Lady, he made all imaginable Haste to go and pay his Respects, and the Lady on her part seeing him coming, prevented him from addressing his Discourse to her first, but said to him, *Come nearer, Prince Ahmed, you are welcome.*

It was no small Surprize to the Prince to hear himself named, in a place he had never heard of, tho' so nigh his Father's Capital, and he could not comprehend, how he should be known to a Lady, who was a Stranger to him. At last he return'd the Lady's Compliment by throwing himself at her Feet, and rising up again, said to her, Madam, I return you a thousand Thanks for the Assurance you give me of a Welcome to a place, where I believ'd my imprudent Curiosity had made me penetrate too far. But, Madam, may I, without being guilty of ill Manners, dare to ask you by what Adventure you know me? And that you who live in the same Neighbourhood with me, should be so great a Stranger to me. Prince, said the Lady, let us go into the Hall, there I'll gratify you in your Request.

After these Words, the Lady led Prince *Ahmed* into the Hall, the noble Structure of which, and the Gold and Azure which imbellish'd the Dome, and the inestimable Richness of the Furniture, appear'd so great a Novelty to him, that he could not enough express his Admiration, by crying out, that he had never, in his Life, beheld any thing like it, and believed that never any thing ever was to be compared to it. I can assure you, reply'd the Lady, that this is the least piece of Curiosity in my Palace, and you will say so when you have seen all the Apartments. Then she sat down on a *Sofa*, and when the Prince by her Intreaty had done the same, she said, You are surprized, you say, that I should know you, and not be known by you, but you will be no longer surprized, when inform'd who I am. You are undoubtedly sensible, that your Religion teaches you to believe, that the World is inhabited by Genies as well as Men; I am the Daughter of one of the most powerful and distinguish'd Genies, and my Name is *Paribanon*. Therefore you ought not to be amazed, that I know you, the Sultan your Father, the Princes your Brothers, and the Princess *Nouronihar*. I am no Stranger to your Lives and Travels, of which I can give you all the Circumstances, since it was I my self who exposed to Sale the artificial Apple which you bought at *Samarcande*, the Tapestry which Prince *Houssain* met with at *Bishnagar*, and the Ivory prospective Glass which

Prince *Ali* brought from *Schiraz*. This is sufficient to let you know, that I am not unacquainted with what relates to you. The only thing that I have to add is, that you seem'd to me worthy of a more happy Fate than that of possessing the Princess *Nouronihar*, and that you might attain to it, I was present when you drew your Arrow, and foresaw, it would not go beyond Prince *Houssain's*: I took it in the Air, and gave it the necessary Motion to strike against the Rocks, near which you found it, and tell you, that it lies in your power to make Use of the favourable Opportunity which presents itself, to make you happy.

As the Fairy *Paribanon* pronounced these last Words, with a different Tone, and look'd, at the same Time, tenderly upon Prince *Ahmed* with a modest Blush on her Cheeks; it was no hard Matter for the Prince to comprehend what Happiness she meant. He presently consider'd, that the Princess *Nouronihar* could never be his, and that the Fairy *Paribanon* excell'd her infinitely in Beauty, Agreeableness, Wit, and as much as he could conjecture by the Magnificence of the Palace, in immense Riches. He blessed the Moment that he thought of seeking after his Arrow a second Time, and yielding to his Inclination, which drew him towards the lovely Object, which had fired his Heart. Madam, reply'd he, should I, all my Life, have the Happiness of being your Slave, and the Admirer of the many Charms which ravish my Soul, I should think my self the most blest of Men. Pardon in me the Boldness which inspires me to ask this Favour, and don't refuse to admit me into your Court, a Prince who is entirely devoted to you.

Prince, answer'd the Fairy, as I have been a long Time my own Mistress, and have no Dependance on my Parents Consents, 'tis not as a Slave that I would admit you into my Court, but as Master of my Person, and all that belongs to me by pledging your Faith to me, and taking me to be your Wife. I hope you will not take my making this Proposal amiss. I am Mistress of my Will, and must add, that the same Customs are not observed among Fairies as with other Ladies, in whom it would not have been decent to have made such Ad-

vances: But it is what we do, and you ought to be the more obliged to us for it.

Prince *Ahmed* made no Answer to this Discourse, but was penetrated with so much Acknowledgment, that he could not better express it than by going to kiss the Hem of her Garment, which she would not permit him to do; but presented her Hand, which he kiss'd a thousand Times, and kept fast lock'd up in his. Well, Prince *Ahmed*, said she, will you not pledge your Faith to me, as well as I give mine to you? Yes, Madam, reply'd the Prince, in an Extasy of Joy, what can I do better, and with greater pleasure? Yes, my Sultaneß, my Queen, I'll give you my Heart without the least Reserve. Then, answer'd the Fairy, you are my Husband, and I am your Wife. Our Marriages are contracted with no other Ceremonies, and yet are more firm and strict than those made by Men with all their Formalities. But as I suppose, pursued she, that you have eat nothing to-day, a slight Repast shall be served up for you, while Preparations are making for our Nuptial Feast at Night, and then I will shew you the Apartments of my Palace, and you shall judge if this Hall is not the meanest part of it.

Some of the Fairy's Women, who came into the Hall with them, and guess'd her Intentions, went immediately out, and return'd presently with some excellent Meats and Wines.

When Prince *Ahmed* had eat and drank as much as he cared for, the Fairy *Paribanon* carried him thro' all the Apartments, where he saw Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, and all sorts of fine Jewels intermix'd with Pearls, Agate, Jasper, Porphyrie, and all sorts of the most precious Marbles: But not to mention the Richness of the Furniture which was inestimable, there was such profuseness throughout, that the Prince instead of ever having seen any thing like it, own'd that he could not have imagin'd that there was any thing in the World that could come up to it. Prince, said the Fairy, if you admire my Palace so much, which indeed is very beautiful, What would you say to the Palaces of the Chief of our Genies, which are much more beautiful, spacious and magnificent? I could also charm you with my
Garden;

Garden; but we will let that alone till another Time. Night draws near, and it will be Time to go to Supper.

The next Hall which the Fairy led the Prince into, and where the Cloth was laid for the Feast, was the last only Apartment the Prince had not seen, and not in the least inferior to the others. At his Entrance into it, he admired the infinite Number of Sconces of Wax-Candles perfum'd with Amber, the Multitude of which, instead of being confus'd, were placed with so just a Symmetry, as form'd an agreeable and pleasant Sight. A large Buffet was set out with all sorts of Gold Plate, so finely wrought, that the Workmanship was much more valuable than the Weight of the Gold: Several Chorus'es of beautiful Women richly dress'd, and whose Voices were ravishing, began a Concert, accompanied with all sorts of the most harmonious Instruments; and when they were set down at Table, the Fairy *Paribanon* took Care to help Prince *Ahmed* with the most delicate Meats, which she named as she invited him to eat of them, and which the Prince found to be so exquisitely nice, that he commended them with Exaggeration, and said that the Entertainment far surpassed those of Men. He found also the same Excellence in the Wines, which neither he nor the Fairy tasted of, till the Desert was served up, which consisted of the choicest Sweet-Meats and Fruits.

After the Desert, the Fairy *Paribanon* and Prince *Ahmed* rose from the Table, which was immediately carried away, and sat on a *Sofa*, at their Ease, with Cushions of fine Silk curiously imbroider'd in all sorts of Flowers, laid at their Backs. Presently after a great Number of Genies and Fairies danced before them to the Door of the Chamber, where the Nuptial Bed was made, and when they came there they divided themselves into two Rows to let them pass, and after that retired, leaving them to go to Bed.

The Nuptial Feast was continued the next Day; or rather, the Days following the Celebration were a continual Feast, which the Fairy *Paribanon*, to whom nothing was difficult, knew how to diversify by new Ragouts and choice Meats, and new Consorts, Dancings, Plays and other Diversions, which were all so extrao-

inary, that Prince *Ahmed*, if he had lived a thousand Years among them, could not have imagined.

The Fairy's Intention was not only to give the Prince essential Proofs of the Sincerity of her Love, and Violence of her Passion; but to let him see, that as he had no Pretensions at his Father's Court or any where else, he could meet with nothing comparable to the Happiness he enjoy'd with her, and to attach him entirely to her self, that he might never leave her. In this Scheme she succeeded so well, that Prince *Ahmed*'s Passion was not in the least diminish'd by Possession, but increased so much, that if he would, it was not in his Power to forbear loving her.

At the End of six Months Prince *Ahmed*, who always loved, and honoured the Sultan his Father, conceived a great Desire to know how he did, and that Desire could not be satisfied without his absenting, and going himself: He told the Fairy of it, and desired she would give him Leave.

This Discourse alarm'd the Fairy, and made her fear it was only an Excuse to leave her, and thereupon said to him, What Disgust can I have given you to oblige you to ask me this Leave? Is it possible you should have forgot, that you have pledged your Faith to me; and that you no longer love one, who is so passionately fond of you; are not the Proofs I have given you of it sufficient Arguments?

My Queen, replied the Prince, I am very well convinced of your Passion, and should be very unworthy of it, if I did not testify my Acknowledgment by a reciprocal Love. If you are offended at the Leave I asked, I beg of you to forgive me, and I'll make all the Reparation I am capable of: I did not do it with an Intention of displeasing you, but out of a pure Motive of Respect towards my Father, whom I wish to free from the Affliction my so long Absence must have occasioned him, which must be the greater, as I presume, he believes, that I am dead: But since you do not consent, that I should afford him that Comfort, I'll do what you will, and nothing to displease you.

Prince *Ahmed*, who did not dissemble, and loved her, in his Heart, as much as he had assured her by

Word

Word of Mouth, no longer insisted on the Leave he had asked, and the Fairy expressed a great Satisfaction thereat: But as he could not absolutely abandon the Design he had formed to himself, he often took an Opportunity to speak to her of the great Qualifications of the Sultan his Father, and above all, of his Tenderness towards him. All this he said with a Design to move her Compassion; for as he judged, the Sultan of the *Indies* in the Midst of all the Rejoicings, on Account of Prince *Ali's* and Princess *Nouronihar's* Nuptials, was sensibly afflicted at the Absence of the other two Princes, his Sons, though it was not long before he was informed of the Resolution Prince *Houssain* had taken to forsake the World, and the Place of Retreat he had made choice of.

But as a good Father's Happiness consists in seeing his Children about him, especially when they are deserving of his Tenderness, he would have been better pleased he had stayed at his Court; but as he could not so much disapprove of his Choice, he supported his Absence more patiently; though he made the most diligent Search after Prince *Ahmed*, and dispatched Couriers, to all the Provinces of his Dominions, with Orders to the Governors to stop him, and oblige him to return to Court; but all the Care he took had not the desired Success, and his Trouble, instead of diminishing, increased. He would often talk with his Grand Visier about it, and say to him, Visier, thou knowest I always loved *Ahmed*, the best of all my Sons, and thou art not insensible of the Means I have used to oblige him to return, without Success. My Grief is so lively, I shall sink under it, if thou hast not Compassion on me; therefore if thou hast any Regard for the Preservation of my Life, I conjure thee to assist and advise me.

The Grand Visier, no less attach'd to the Person of the Sultan, than zealous to acquit himself well of the Administration of the Affairs of State, considering on the Means to give his Sovereign some Ease and Relief, bethought of a Sorceress, of whom he had heard Wonders, proposed to send for her to consult her. The Sultan consented, and the Grand Visier, after he had sent for her, brought her to him himself. 3 The

The Sultan said to the Magician, The Affliction I have been in since the Marriage of my Son Prince *Ali* to the Princess *Nouronihar*, my Neice, on the Account of the Absence of Prince *Ahmed*, is so well known, and so publick, that undoubtedly thou canst be no Stranger to it. Therefore by thy Art and Skill canst thou tell me, what is become of him? if he is alive, and where he is? what he is a doing; and if I may hope ever to see him again? To this the Sorceress made Answer, It is impossible, Sir, for me, though never so skillful, to answer the Questions, your Majesty asks me, immediately; but if you give me till to-morrow, I will. The Sultan granted her the Time, and sent her away with a Promise to recompense her well, if her Answer proved according to his Desire.

This Magician returned the next Day, and the Grand Visier presented her a second Time to the Sultan. Sir, said she, notwithstanding all the Diligence I have used by applying my self to the Rules of my Art, to obey your Majesty, in what you desire to know, I have not been able to discover any thing more, than that the Prince *Ahmed* is alive, but cannot find out where he is.

The Sultan of the *Indies* was forced to be satisfied with this Answer, which made him still as uneasy about the Prince's Fate.

But to return to Prince *Ahmed*; he so often entertained the Fairy *Paribanon* with the Sultan his Father, without speaking any more of his Desire to see him, that she comprehended at the same Time what he meant; and perceiving this Restraint he put upon himself, and fearing, that her Refusal might displease, she first infer'd to herself, that his Love for her, was, by the many Proofs she had had at all times, sincere; and then considering the Injustice she was guilty of, by opposing a Son's Tendernefs for his Father, and endeavouring to make him renounce that natural Inclination, she resolved to grant him the leave, which she saw he always so ardently desired, and one Day said to him, Prince, the Leave you have asked me to go and see the Sultan your Father, gave me a just Fear, that it was only a Pre-text to shew your Inconstancy, and to leave me, and that

that was the Motive which made me refuse you. But now I am so fully convinced by your Actions and Words, that I can depend on your Constancy and your steady Love, I change my Resolution, and grant you that Leave, upon Condition, that you will swear to me first, that your Absence shall not be long, and you will return soon. You ought not to be concern'd at this Condition, since I don't ask it out of a Distrust, but to shew the Sincerity of my Love.

Prince *Ahmed* would have thrown himself at the Fairy's Feet, to shew his Acknowledgment, but she prevented him. My Sultaneess, said he, I am sensible of the great Favour you grant me; but want Words to return the Thanks it deserves, and I conceive: Supply this Defect, I conjure you, and whatever you can suggest to your self, be persuaded I think much more. You may believe, that the Oath you require is a Pleasure to me, and I take it most willingly, since it is not possible for me to live without you. I go, but the haste I'll make to return, shall shew you, that it is not for fear of being foresworn, but that I follow my Inclination, which is to live with you for ever; and if I am absent some time, with your Consent, I shall always avoid the Trouble a too long Absence will create me.

Paribanon was the more charm'd with these Sentiments of Prince *Ahmed*, because they removed the Suspicions she had entertain'd of him, fearing, that his earnest Desire to go to see the Sultan his Father, was only a Pretext to break his Faith with her. Prince, said she, go when you please. But first, don't take it amiss, that I give you some Advice, how you shall behave your self where you are going. First, I don't think it proper for you to tell the Sultan, your Father, of our Marriage, nor of my Quality, nor the Place where you have been. Beg of him to be satisfied in knowing you are happy, and desire no more; and let him know, that the sole End of your Visit is to make him easy, and inform him of your Fate.

She appointed twenty Gentlemen, well mounted and equipt to attend him. When all was ready, Prince *Ahmed* took his Leave of the Fairy, embraced her and renewed his Promise to return soon. Then his Horse,

which was most finely caparison'd, and was as beautiful a Creature as any in the Sultan of the *Indie's* Stables, was led to him, and he mounted him with an extraordinary Grace and Pleasure to the Fairy, and after he had bid her a last Adieu, set forward on his Journey.

As it was not a great Way to his Father's Capital, Prince *Ahmed* soon arrived there. The People glad to see him again, receiv'd him with Acclamations of Joy, and followed him in Crowds to the Sultan's Apartment. The Sultan receiv'd and embraced him with great Joy, complaining at the same time with a fatherly Tenderness, of the Affliction his long Absence had been to him; which he said was the more grievous, for that Fortune having decided in favour of Prince *Ali* his Brother, he was afraid he might have committed some rash Action.

Sir, reply'd Prince *Ahmed*, I leave it to your Majesty to consider, if after having lost the Princess *Nouronibar*, who was the only Object of my Desires, I could resolve to be a Witness of Prince *Ali's* Happiness. If I had been capable of so mean a Spirit, what would the Court and Town have thought of my Love, or what your Majesty? Love is a Passion we cannot throw off when we will; it rules and governs us, and will not permit a true Lover to have the right Use of his Reason. Your Majesty knows, that when I shot my Arrow, the most extraordinary Thing that ever befel any Body, happen'd to me, that in so large and open a Plain, as that we shot in, my Arrow was not to be found; upon which I lost the Prize, tho' there was as much Justice due to my Love, as that of the Princes my Brothers. Tho' thus vanquish'd by the Caprice of Fate, I lost no Time in vain Complaints; but to satisfy my perplex'd Mind, in an Adventure, which I could not comprehend, I gave my Attendants the Slip, and returned back again alone to look for my Arrow. I sought all about the Place where Prince *Houssain's* and Prince *Ali's* were found, and where I imagined mine should fall, but all my Labour was in vain. However I was not dismay'd, but continued my Search in a direct Line, and looked carefully about, where I could guess it might

might fall; and after this Manner had gone above a League without being able to meet with any thing like an Arrow.

When I reflected, that it was not possible that mine should fly so far, I stopt; to examine with my self, whether or no I was in my right Senses, to flatter my self with having Strength enough to shoot an Arrow so much farther, than any of the greatest Heroes in the World were able to do. After I had argued thus with my self, I was ready to abandon my Enterprize; but when I was for putting my Resolution in execution, I found myself drawn forward almost against my Will, and after having gone four Leagues to that part of the Plain where it is bounded by the Rocks, I perceiv'd my Arrow, ran and took it up, and knew it to be the same which I shot. But knowing, that it was not found at a proper Time or Place, I was far from thinking your Majesty had done me any Injustice, in declaring for my Brother Prince *Ali*, but interpreted what had happen'd to be quite otherwise, and never doubted but there was a Mystery in it to my Advantage, the Discovery of which I ought not to neglect, and which I found out, without going much farther. But as to what this Mystery is, I will beg your Majesty will not take it ill, that I am silent, and that you will be satisfied to know from my own Mouth, that I am happy, and content with my Fate.

In the midst of all my Happiness, the only Thing that troubled me, or was capable of disturbing me, was the Uneasiness I feared your Majesty was in, upon Account of my leaving the Court, and your not knowing what was become of me; therefore, I thought it my Duty to satisfy you in that Point. This was the only Motive which brought me hither, and the only Favour I ask of you Majesty, is to give me Leave to come often and pay you my Respects, and to know how you do.

Son, answered the Sultan of the *Indies*, I cannot refuse you the Leave you ask me; but I should much rather you could resolve to stay with me; at least tell me, where I may send to you, if you should fail to come, or when I may think your Presence necessary. Sir,

reply'd

reply'd Prince *Ahmed*, what your Majesty asks of me, is Part of the Mystery I spoke to your Majesty of. I beg of you to give me Leave to remain silent on this Head; for I shall come so frequently, that I am afraid, that I shall sooner be thought troublesome, than be accused of Negligence in my Duty.

The Sultan of the *Indies* press'd Prince *Ahmed* no more, but said to him, Son, I'll penetrate no farther into your Secrets, but leave you at your own Liberty; but can tell you, that you could not do me a greater Pleasure than to come, and by your Presence restore to me the Joy I have not felt this long time; and that you shall always be welcome when you come, without interrupting your Business or Pleasures.

Prince *Ahmed* stayed but three Days at the Sultan his Father's Court, and the fourth return'd to the Fairy *Paribanon*, who did not expect him so soon. His Diligence made her condemn her self for suspecting his want of Fidelity. She never dissembled in the least, but frankly owned her Weakness to the Prince, and ask'd his Pardon. Thus the Union of these two Lovers became perfect.

A Month after Prince *Ahmed's* Return from paying a Visit to his Father, as the Fairy *Paribanon* had observed, that the Prince, since the Time that he gave her an Account of his Journey, his Discourse with his Father, and the Leave he asked to go to see him often, had never talk'd of the Sultan, as if there had been no such Person in the World? whereas before he was always speaking of him, she thought he forebore upon her Account; therefore she took an Opportunity to say to him one Day, Prince, tell me, Have you forgot the Sultan your Father? Don't you remember the Promise you made to go and see him often? For my Part, I have not forgot what you told me at your Return, and so put you in Mind of it, that you may not be long, before you acquit your self of your Promise the first Time, however.

Madam, replied Prince *Ahmed*, with the same Mirth the Fairy spoke to him. As I know I am not guilty of the Forgetfulness you speak of; I rather chuse to be thus reproach'd than exposed to a Refusal, by shewing unseasonably a Desire for a Thing, which you might not be pleas'd to grant me so readily. Prince, said the Fairy, I would

have

have you in this Affair, not have so much Consideration for me, since it is a Month since you have seen the Sultan, your Father; pay him another Visit to Morrow; and after that, go and see him once a Month, without speaking to me, or waiting for my Leave.

Prince *Ahmed* went the next Morning with the same Attendance as before, but much finer, and himself more magnificently mounted, equipt and dress'd, and was received by the Sultan with the same Joy and Satisfaction. For several Months he constantly paid his Visits, and always in a richer and finer Equipage.

At last some Viziers, the Sultan's Favourites, who judged of Prince *Ahmed's* Grandeur and Power by the Figure he made, abused the Liberty the Sultan gave them of speaking to him, by making him jealous of his Son. They represented to him, that it was but common Prudence, to know where the Prince retired, and how he could afford to live at such a Rate, since he had no Revenue nor Income assign'd him, and that he only came to Court to brave him, and to shew he wanted nothing of him to live like a Prince, and it was to be feared he might inveigle himself into the People's Favour and dethrone him.

The Sultan of the *Indies* was so far from thinking, that Prince *Ahmed* could be capable of so pernicious a Design, as his Favourites would make him believe, said to them; you are mistaken, my Son loves me, and I am certain of his Tendernefs and Fidelity, as I have given him no Reason to be disgusted.

Upon these last Words, one of the Favourites took an Opportunity to say, Your Majesty, in the Opinion of People of most Sense, could not have taken a better Method than what you have done with the three Princes about their Marriage with the Princes *Nouronihar*; but who knows whither Prince *Ahmed* has submitted to his Fate with the same Resignation as Prince *Houssain*? May not he imagine, that he only deserved her, and that your Majesty, by leaving that Matter to be decided by Chance, has done him Injustice?

Your Majesty may say, added the malicious Favourite, that Prince *Ahmed* has given no Sign of a Dissatisfaction, that our Fears are vain, that we are too easily alarm'd; and are

are in the wrong to entertain Suspicions of this Nature, which may have no Ground, against a Prince of his Blood. But Sir, pursued the Favourite, it may be also these Suspicions are well grounded. Your Majesty is sensible, that in so nice and important an Affair, you cannot be too much upon your Guard. Consider, it is the Prince's Business to dissemble, amuse and deceive you. and the Danger is the greater as the Prince resides not far from your Capital; and if your Majesty gave but the same Attention that we do, you may observe, that every Time he comes, he and his Attendants are fresh, and their Cloaths and Houfings are as clean and bright, as if they just came out of the Maker's Hands, and their Horses look as if they had only been walk'd out. These are such sufficient Signs, that Prince *Ahmed* does not come a great way, that we should think our selves wanting in our Duty, if we did not make our humble Remonstrances, that for your own Preservation and the good of your People, you might take such Measures as you should think fit.

When the Favourite had made an End of this long Speech, the Sultan said, Be as it will I don't believe my Son *Ahmed* is so wicked as you would persuade me he is; however I am obliged to you for your good Advice, and don't dispute, but that it proceeds from your good Intentions.

The Sultan of the *Indies* said this, that his Favourites might not know the Impressions their Discourse had made on his Mind, which had so alarm'd him, that he resolv'd to have Prince *Ahmed* watch'd, unknown to his Grand Vizier. For this End he sent for the Magician, who was introduced by a Back-Door into his Apartment. Thou teldest me the Truth, said he, when thou assur'dst me my Son *Ahmed* was alive, for which I am obliged to thee; but now thou must do me another Pleasure. I have seen him since, and he comes to my Court every Month; but I cannot learn from him where he resides, and I would not force his Secret out of him, but believe thee capable of satisfying my Curiosity, without letting him or any of my Court know any Thing of the Matter. Thou know'st, that at this present he is here with me, and is us'd to go away without taking Leave of me, or any of my Court. Go immediately upon the Road, and watch him so well, as to find out where he retires, and bring me Word.

The

The Magician left the Sultan, and knowing the Place where Prince *Ahmed* found his Arrow, went immediately thither, and hid herself near the Rocks, so that no body could see her.

The next Morning Prince *Ahmed* set out by Day-Break, without taking Leave either of the Sultan, or any of his Court, according to Custom. The Magician seeing him coming, follow'd him with her Eyes, till all on a sudden, she lost sight of him and his Attendants.

As the Rocks were very steep, and craggy, they were an insurmountable Barrier, so that the Magician judged, that there were but two Things for it, either that the Prince retired into some Cavern, or an abode of Genies or Fairies. Thereupon she came out of the Place where she was hid, and went directly to the hollow Way, which she traced till she came to the farther End, looking carefully about on all Sides. But notwithstanding all her Diligence, could perceive no Opening, not so much as the Iron Gate which Prince *Ahmed* discover'd, which was to be seen and open'd to none but Men, and only to such as whose Presence was agreeable to the Fairy *Paribanon*,

The Magician, who saw it was in vain for her to search any farther, was obliged to be satisfied with the Discovery she had made, and return'd to give the Sultan an Account. When she had told him what she had done, she added, Your Majesty may easily understand, after what I have had the Honour to tell you, it will be no hard Matter to give you the Satisfaction you desire of Prince *Ahmed*'s Conduct: I won't tell you now, what I think, but chuse to let you know it, when I can do it, and can give you a just Account; to do which, I only ask time, and that you will have Patience, and give me leave to do it, without knowing first, what Measures I design to take.

The Sultan was very well pleased with the Magician's Conduct, and said to her, do you as you think fit: I'll wait patiently the Event of your Promises; and to encourage her made her a Present of a Diamond of great Value, telling her, it was only an Earnest of the Recompence she should have, if she did him that important piece of Service, which he left to her Management.

As Prince *Ahmed* had obtain'd the Fairy *Páribanon's* Leave to go to the Sultan of the *Indies* Court once a Month, he never fail'd, and the Magician knowing the Times, went a Day or two before to the Foot of the Rock where she lost Sight of the Prince, and his Attendants, and wait'd there with an Intention to execute the Project she had in her Head.

The next Morning Prince *Ahmed* went out as usual at the Iron-Gate, with the same Attendants as before, and pass'd by the Magician, whom he knew not to be such, and seeing her lie with her Head against the Rock, and complaining as if she was in great Pain, he p-tied her, turn'd his Horse about, and went to her, and ask'd her what was the Matter with her, and what he could do to ease her.

The artful Sorceress look'd at the Prince in a pitiful manner, without every lifting up her Head, and answer'd, in Broken Words and Sighs, as if she could hardly fetch her Breath; that she was going to the Capital City, but in the Way thither she was taken with so violent a Fever, that her Strength failed her, and she was forced to lie down where he saw her, far from any Habitation, and without any Hopes of Assistance.

Good Woman, reply'd Prince *Ahmed*, you are not so far from Help as you imagine: I am ready to assist you, and convey you, where you shall not only have all possible Care taken of you, but where you will meet with a speedy Cure. Only get up, and let one of my People take you behind him.

At these Words, the Magician who pretended Sicknefs only to know where the Prince lived, and what he did, refused not the charitable Offer he made her; and that her Actions might correspond with her Words, she made many pretended vain Endeavours to get up. At the same time two of the Prince's Attendants lighted off their Horses helped her up and set her behind another, and mounted their Horses again and followed the Prince, who turn'd back to the Iron-Gate, which was open'd by one of his Retinue, who rid before: And when he came into the outward Court of the Fairy's, without dismounting himself, he sent to tell her he wanted to speak with her.

The Fairy *Paribanon* came with all imaginable Hast, not knowing what made Prince *Ahmed* return so soon, who not giving her time to ask him the Reason, said; Princess, I desire, you would have Compassion on this good Woman, pointing to the Magician, who was held up by two of his Retinue. I found her in the Condition you see her in, and promised her the Assistance she stands in need of, and am persuaded, that you, out of your own Goodness, as well as upon my Intreaty, will not abandon her.

The Fair *Paribanon*, who had her Eyes fixt upon the pretended sick Woman, all the time, that the Prince was talking to her, ordered two of her Women who followed her, to take her from the two Men that held her, and carry her into an Apartment of the Palace, and take as much Care of her, as her self.

Whilst the two Women executed the Fairy's Commands, she went up to Prince *Ahmed*, and whispering him in the Ear, said; Prince I commend your Compassion, which is worthy of you and your Birth; I take a great Pleasure in gratifying your good Intention, but give me leave to tell you, I am afraid it will be but ill rewarded. This Woman is not so sick, as she pretends to be; and I am very much mistaken, if she is not an Impostor, who will be the Cause of a great Trouble to you. But don't be concern'd: let what will be devised against you, be persuaded, that I will deliver you out of all the Snares that shall be laid for you: Go and pursue your Journey.

This Discourse of the Fairy's, did not in the least fright Prince *Ahmed*: My Princess, said he, as I don't remember I ever did, or design'd, any Body an Injury, I cannot believe, any Body can have a Thought of doing me one; but if they have, I shall not nevertheless forbear doing Good, whenever I have an Opportunity. After saying so, he took his Leave of the Fairy, and set forward again for his Father's Capital, where he soon arrived, and was received as usual by the Suban, who disguised as much as possible the Trouble the Discourse and Suspicions of his Favourites had given him.

In the mean time the two Women carried the Magician into a very fine Apartment richly furnish'd. First, they sat her down upon a *Sofa*, with her Back supported with a Cushion of Gold Brocade, while they made a Bed on the
same

same *Sofa* before her, the Quilt of which was finely im-broidered with Silk, the Sheets of the finest Linnen, and the Coverlid Cloth of Gold. When they had put her in-to Bed, (for the old Sorcerers pretended that her Fever was so violent she could not help her self i. the least) one of the Women went out and returned soon again, with a China Dish in her Hand, full of a certain Liquor, which she presented to the Magician, while the other helped her upon her Breech: Drink this Liquor, said she, it is the Water of the Fountain of *Lyons*, and a sovereign Remedy against all Fevers whatsoever. You will find the Effects of it in less than an Hour's time.

The Magician, to dissemble the better, took it after a great deal of Intreaty, as if she was very much averse to take that Potion; but at last she took the China Dish, and holding back her Head, swallowed down the Liquor. When she was laid down again, the two Women cover'd her up; lie quiet, said she who brought her the China Cup, and get a little Sleep, if you can; we'll leave you, and hope to find you perfectly cured when we come again an Hour hence.

The Magician, who came not to act a sick Part long, but only to discover Prince *Ahmed's* Retreat, and what made him leave his Father's Court, being fully satisfy'd in what she wanted to know, would willingly have declared, that the Potion had then had its Effect; so great was her Desire to return to the Sultan, to inform him of the Success of her Commission: But as she had been told, that the Potion did not operate immediately, she was forced to wait the two Womens Return.

The two Women came again at the Time they said they should, and found the Magician got up and dress'd, and sat upon the *Sofa*; who, when she saw them open the Door of her Apartment, cry'd out, O admirable ! ot on !, it has wrought its Cure much sooner than you told me it would, and I have waited a long time with Impatience to desire you to carry me to your charitable Mistress to thank her for her Kindness, for which I shall always be obliged to her; since being thus cured to a Miracle, I shall not lose any Time, but shall be able to prosecute my Journey.

The

The two Women, who were Fairies as well as their Mistress, after they had told the Magician how glad they were that she was cured so soon, walk'd before her, and conducted her thro' several Apartments, all more noble than that wherein she lay, into a large Hall, the most richly and magnificently furnish'd of all the Palace.

Paribanon was set in this Hall on a Throne of Massy Gold, enrich'd with Diamonds, Rubies and Pearls of an extraordinary Size, and attended on each Hand by a great Number of beautiful Fairies, all richly cloath'd. At the sight of so much Majesty, the Magician was not only dazled, but was so amaz'd, that after she had prostrated herself before the Throne, she could not open her Lips to thank the Fairy, as she proposed. However *Paribanon* saved her the Trouble, and said to her, Good Woman, I am glad I had an Opportunity to oblige you, and to see you are able to pursue your Journey. I won't detain you, but perhaps you may not be displeased to see my Palace; follow my Women, they shall shew it you.

The old Sorceress, who had not Power nor Courage to say a Word, prostrated herself with her Head to the Tapestry that cover'd the Foot of the Throne a second Time, and so took her Leave, and was conducted by the two Fairies through all the same Apartments, which were shewn to Prince *Ahmed* at his first Arrival there, and examining all the Riches and Magnificence, she often made great Exclamations. But what was the greatest Subject of her Admiration was, that the two Fairies told her, that all she saw and was surprized at, was a meer Trifle in respect of their Mistress's Grandeur and Riches; and that in the Extent of her Dominions, she had so many Palaces, that they could not tell the Number of them, all of different Models and Architecture, and as magnificent and noble. In talking of a great many other Particulars, they brought her at last to the Iron Gate, at which Prince *Ahmed* brought her in, and which, after she had taken her Leave of them, and thanked them for the Pains they had taken, they open'd, and wish'd her a good Journey.

After the Magician had gone a little way, she turn'd back again to observe the Door, and know it again; but all in vain, for as I have before observed, it was invisible to her and all other Women. Except in this Circumstance, she
was

was very well satisfy'd with executing the Commission she had taken upon herself, and posted away to the Sultan. When she came to the Capital, she went a great many By-ways to get privately to the Back-door of the Sultan's Palace, who being informed of her Arrival, sent for her into his Apartment, and perceiving a melancholy Pang upon her Countenance, he thought she had not succeeded, and said to her, by thy Looks I guess that thy Journey has been to no purpose, and thou hast not made the Discovery I expected from thy Diligence. Sir, reply'd the Magician, your Majesty must give me Leave to represent to you, that you ought not to judge by my Looks, whether or no I have behaved my self well in the Execution of the Commands you was pleas'd to honour me with, but by the fatal Reports I shall make you of all that has happened to me, and by which you'll find that I have not neglected any thing that could render me worthy of your Approbation. The Melancholy you observe in my Face proceeds from another Cause than the want of Success, which I hope your Majesty will have all the Reason in the World to be content with, and of which, if you will have Patience, the Relation, I am going to give, will inform you.

Then the Magician related to the Sultan of the *Indies*, how she pretending to be sick, Prince *Ahmed*, mov'd with Compassion, had her carried into a subterraneous Abode, and presented and recommended her himself to a Fairy of an incomparable Beauty, desiring her by her Care to contribute towards her Health. Then she told him, with how much Complaisance the Fairy presently ordered two Fairies that attended her, to take care of her, and not leave her till she was recovered; which great Condescension, said she, could proceed from no other Person but from a Wife to a Husband. Afterwards the old Sorceress exaggerated on her Surprise at the Front of the Palace, which, she said, had not its Fellow in the World, and gave him an Account how the two Fairies held her up by each Arm, like a sick Person as she feigned to be, that could not walk or support her self; and made a long Story of the Care they took of her, after they had led her into an Apartment, of the Potion they made her drink, and the quickness of her Cure; how she still pretended Sickness, tho' she never
doubted

doubted of the Virtue of the Draught: But above all, she was sure not to forget the Majesty of the Fairy seated on a Throne that shined again with Jewels, the Value of which exceeded all the Riches of the Kingdom of the *Indies*, and that in short, all the other Riches, which were included in that vast Palace, were immense.

Here the Magician finishing the Relation of the Success of her Commission, and continuing her Discourse, said, What does your Majesty think of these unheard-of Riches of the Fairy? Perhaps you will say, you are struck with Admiration, and rejoyce at the good Fortune of Prince *Ahmed* your Son, who enjoys them in common with the Fairy. For my part, Sir, I beg of your Majesty to forgive me, if I take the Liberty to remonstrate to you that I think otherwise, and to tell you that I shudder when I consider the Misfortune which may happen to you. And this is the Melancholy which I could not so well dissemble, and you so soon perceived. I would believe that Prince *Ahmed* of his own Nature is incapable of undertaking any thing against your Majesty. But who can answer, that the Fairy by her Charns and Caresses, and the Influence she has already over him, may not inspire him with a pernicious Design of dethroning your Majesty, and seizing the Crown of the *Indies*. This is what your Majesty ought to consider as a serious Affair, and of the utmost Importance.

Tho' the Sultan of the *Indies* was very well perswaded that Prince *Ahmed's* Natural Disposition was good, yet he could not help being concern'd at the Discourse of the old Sorceress, to whom, when she was for taking her Leave, he said, I thank thee for the Pains thou hast taken, and thy wholesome Advice; I am so sensible of the great Importance it is to me, that I shall deliberate upon it in Council.

Accordingly he returned to his Favourites, with whom he was consulting, when he was told of the Magician's Arrival, and ordered her to follow him. He acquainted them with what he had learned, and communicated to them also the Reason he had to fear the Fairy's Influence over the Prince, and ask'd them what Measures they thought most proper to be taken to prevent so great a Misfortune. To which, one of the Favourites taking upon himself to speak for the rest, said, Your Majesty knows who must be

the Author, and now he is in your Court, and in your Power, you ought to make no Scruple to put him under Arrest; and I won't say, take away his Life; but make him a close Prisoner while he lives. This Advice all the other Favourites unanimously applauded.

Then the Magician, who thought it too violent, ask'd the Sultan Leave to speak, which he granted her, and she said, Sir, I am perswaded, the Zeal of your Counsellors for your Majesty's Interest makes them propose the arresting of Prince *Ahmed*. But perhaps they will not take it amiss, if I offer to your and their Consideration, that if you arrest the Prince, you must also detain his Retinue, who are all Genies. And it is to be thought it will not be easy to seize and secure their Persons. Is not their Property such, as they can render themselves invisible, and transport themselves to the Fairy, and give her an Account of the Insult offered her Husband? And can it be supposed she will let it go unreveng'd? But would it not be better, if by any other Means, which might not make so great a Noise, the Sultan could secure himself against any ill Designs Prince *Ahmed* may have against him, and not injure his Majesty's Honour, or any body be suspected of giving evil Council. If his Majesty has any Opinion of my Advice, as Genies, and Fairies can do things impracticable to Men, it would pique Prince *Ahmed* in his Honour to engage him by means of the Fairy, to procure you certain Advantages, which he will be obliged to do. As for Example, every time your Majesty goes into the Field, you are obliged to be at a great Expence, not only in Pavilions and Tents for your Army, but likewise in Mules and Camels to carry their Baggage. Now might not you engage him to use his Interest with the Fairy to procure you a Tent, which might be carried in a Man's Hand, and which should be so large as to shelter your whole Army; against any bad Weather.

I need say no more to your Majesty; if the Prince brings such a Tent, you may make a great many other Demands of the same Nature, that at last he must sink under the Difficulties, the Impossibility of the executing of them will put him to, notwithstanding the Power, and fertile Inventions of the Fairy, who has inticed him from you by her enchantments, that at last he will be ashamed to appear, and will

will be forced to pass the rest of his Life with the Fairy excluded from any Commerce with the World, and then your Majesty will have no Reason to be afraid of any Enterprizes from him, and cannot be reproached with so detestable an Action, as the shedding of a Son's Blood, or making him a Prisoner for ever.

When the Magician had finish'd her Speech, the Sultan ask'd his Favourites, if they had any thing better to propose, and finding them all silent, determin'd, to follow the Magician's Advice, as the most reasonable and most agreeable to his mild Government.

The next Day, when the Prince came into his Father's Presence, who was talking with his Favourites, and had sat down by him, after a Conversation on indifferent Subjects, the Sultan addressing himself to Prince *Ahmed*, said, Son, when you came and dispell'd those Clouds of Melancholy which your long Absence had brought upon me, you made the Place of your Retreat a Mystery to me; that I am satisfy'd to see you again, and know that you was content with your Condition, I would not penetrate farther into your Secret, when I found you did not care I should. I don't know, why you should use a Father after this manner, who ever was, and will be, glad of your Happiness. However I know your good Fortune, and very much approve your Conduct in marrying a Fairy so worthy of your Love, and so rich and powerful, as I am inform'd, it was not possible for me to have procured so great a Match for you. And now you are rais'd to so high a Rank as to be envied by every body but me your Father; I not only desire you to preserve the good Understanding between us, we have lived in hitherto; but that you would use your Credit with the Fairy to obtain for me a little of her Assistance, which I stand in need of in one Circumstance, and therefore will make a Trial of your Interest.

You are not unsensible what a great Expence, not to mention the Embarrassment to my Generals and Officers, Tents, Pavilions, the Mules and Camels which carry them, are to me every time I take the Field. Now if you would but give your Attention to do me a Pleasure, I am perswaded you could easily procure from her a Pavilion that might be carried in a Man's Hand, and which would extend over a large Army: Besides, when you let her know

it is for me, tho' it may be a difficult Thing, she will not refuse you ; all the World knows Fairies are capable of doing most extraordinary Things.

Prince *Ahmed* never expected, that the Sultan his Father would have ask'd such a Thing, which at first appeared so difficult, not to say impossible. Tho' he knew not absolutely how great the power of Genes and Fairies was, he doubted whether it extended so far as to compass such a Tent as his Father desired : Moreover he had never ask'd any thing of the Fairy *Paribanon*, but was satisfy'd with the continual and many Proofs she had given him of her Passion, which he studied to preserve, without any Views or Interest, further than her Love ; therefore he was in the greatest Embarrassment imaginable what Answer to make. At last, he reply'd, If, Sir, after the finding of my Arrow, I have made my Actions a Secret to you, the Reason was, that was of no great Importance to you to be informed of them ; and though I know not how this Mystery has been revealed to you, I cannot deny but your Information is very just. I have married the Fairy you speak of ; I love her, and am persuaded she loves me ; but can say nothing to the Influence your Majesty believes I have over her. 'Tis what I have not yet made an Experiment of, nor thought of, and should be very glad you would dispense with me from undertaking it, but let me enjoy the Happiness of loving and being beloved without any other Views or Interest. But the Demand of a Father is a Command upon every Child like me, who thinks it my Duty to obey him in every Thing. And tho' it is with the greatest Reluctance imaginable, I will not fail to ask the Favour of my Wife, your Majesty desires, but will not promise you to obtain it ; and if I should not have the Honour to come again to pay you my Respects, that shall be the Sign that I have not had Success : But beforehand I desire you to forgive me, and consider that you your self have reduced me to this Extremity.

Son, replied the Sultan of the *Indies*, I should be very sorry what I ask of you should cause me the Displeasure of never seeing you more. I find you don't know the Power a Husband has over a Wife ; and yours would shew that her Love to you was very indifferent, if she, with the Power she has of a Fairy, should refuse you so trifling a Request

as this I desire you to ask of her for my sake. Lay aside your Fears, which proceed from your believing your self not loved so well as you would be. Go and ask her only, you'll find the Fairy loves you better than you imagine, and remember that People for want of asking, often lose great Advantages. Think with your self, that as you love her, you could refuse her nothing; therefore if she loves you, no more can she you.

All this Discourse of the Sultan of the *Indies* could not persuade Prince *Ahmed*, who would rather he would have ask'd any thing else, than exposing him to the Hazard of displeasing his dear *Paribanou*; and so great was his Chagrin, that he left the Court two Days sooner than he was used to do.

When he returned back again to the Fairy, to whom he always appeared with a merry, gay Countenance, she ask'd him the Cause of the Alteration she perceived in his Looks, and finding that instead of answering her, he inquired after her Health, to avoid satisfying her: She said to him, I will answer your Question when you have answered mine. The Prince deny'd it a long Time, protesting that nothing was the Matter with him; but the more he denied it, she teased him, and said to him, I cannot bear to see you in this Condition; tell me what makes you so concerned, that I may ease your Trouble whatever may be the Cause of it; for it must be very extraordinary, if it is out of my Power, unless it be the Death of the Sultan your Father, and in that Case I'll contribute all that lies in my Power to comfort you.

Prince *Ahmed* could not long withstand the pressing Instances of the Fairy: Madam, said he, God prolong the Sultan my Father's Life, and bless him; I left him alive and in perfect Health; therefore that is not the Cause of the Melancholy you perceive in me, tho' indeed the Sultan is the Occasion of my Concern, because he has imposed on me the Necessity of being importunate to you. First, you know the Care I have taken, with your Approbation, to conceal from him the Happiness I have to see you, love you, to deserve your Favour and Love, and to have pledg'd my Faith with you, but cannot tell how he has been informed of it.

Here the Fairy *Paribanon* interrupted Prince *Ahmed*, and said, If you don't know, I do: Remember what I told you of the Woman who made you believe she was sick, on whom you took so much Compassion: 'Tis she who has acquainted the Sultan your Father, with what you have taken so much Care to hide from him. I told you that she was not sick, as she pretended to be, and she has made it appear so: For in short, after the Women whom I charged to take care of her, had given her the sovereign Water against all Fevers, and which she had no occasion for: She pretended that that Water had cured her, and came to take her Leave of me, that she might go the sooner, and was in so much haste, that she would have gone away without seeing my Palace, if I had not, by bidding my two Women shew it her, thought it worth her seeing. But go on, and tell me what is the Necessity your Father has imposed on you to be so importunate, which I desire you will be perswaded can never be.

Madam, pursued Prince *Ahmed*, you may have observed, that hitherto I have been content with your Love, and have never ask'd you any other Favour: For what, after the Possession of so lovely and charming a Wife, can I desire more? But yet I know not how great your Power may be, and have taken care not to make a Trial of it. Consider then, I conjure you, that it is not me, but the Sultan my Father, who indiscreetly, or at least I think so, begs of you a Pavilion large enough to shelter him, his Court and Army, from the Violence of the Weather, and which a Man may carry in his Hand; but remember it is the Sultan my Father asks this Favour.

Prince, reply'd the Fairy smiling, I am sorry that so small a Matter should disturb you and make you so uneasy as you appeared to me. I see two Things have contributed towards it: One is, the Law you have imposed upon your self to be content with loving and being beloved by me, and to deny your self the Liberty of asking me the least Favour that might try my Power. The other, I don't doubt, whatever you may say, was, you thought that what your Father ask'd of me, was out of my Power. As to the first, I commend you for it, and love you the better if possible, for it; and for the second, I must tell you, that what the Sultan your Father asks of me is a Trifle; and upon occasion

sion I can do much more difficult Things: Therefore be easy, and persuaded that far from being importuned, I shall always take a great deal of Pleasure in whatever you can desire me to do for your sake. Then the Fairy sent for her Treasurer, to whom, when she came, she said, *Nourgihan*, which was her Name, bring me the largest Pavilion in my Treasury. *Nourgihan* returned presently with the Pavilion, which she could not only hold in her Hand, but in the Palm of her Hand when she shut her Fingers, and presented it to her Mistress, who gave it Prince *Ahmed* to look at.

When Prince *Ahmed* saw the Pavilion, which the Fairy called the largest in her Treasury he fancied she had a mind to jest with him, and thereupon the Marks of his Surprise appeared presently in his Countenance, which *Paribanon* perceiving, burst out a laughing. What! Prince, cry'd she, do you think I jest with you? You'll see presently that I am in earnest. *Nourgihan* said she to her Treasurer, taking the Tent out of Prince *Ahmed's* Hands, go and set it up, that the Prince may judge whether it may be large enough for the Sultan his Father.

The Treasurer went immediately with it out of the Palace, and carried it a great way off, and when she had set it up, one End reach'd to the very Palace; at which Time the Prince thinking it small, found it large enough to shelter two greater Armies than that of the Sultan his Father's, and then said to *Paribanon*, I ask my Princess a thousand Pardons for my Incredulity, after what I have seen, I believe there's nothing impossible to you. You see, said the Fairy, that the Pavilion is larger than what your Father may have occasion for; but you must know, that it has one Property, that it is larger or smaller according to the Army it is to cover.

The Treasurer took down the Tent again, reduced it into its first Form, and brought it to the Prince, who took it, and without staying any longer than till the next Day, mounted his Horse, and went with the same Attendants to the Sultan his Father.

The Sultan, who was persuaded that there could not be any such Thing as such a Tent as he ask'd for, was in a great Surprise at the Prince's Diligence. He took the Tent, and after he had admired its Smallness, his Amaze-

ment was so great, that he could not recover himself. When the Tent was set up in the great Plain, which we have beforementioned, he found it was large enough to shelter an Army twice as large as he could bring into the Field, which he looking upon to be a Superfluity, that might be troublesome to him, Prince *Ahmed* told him, that for its size it would always be proportionable to his Army.

To outward Appearance the Sultan express'd a great Obligation to the Prince his Son for so noble a Present, desiring him to return his Thanks to the Fairy *Paribanon*, and order'd it to be carefully laid up in his Treasury; but within himself he conceived a greater Jealousy than what his flattering Favourites and the Magician had harboured and suggested to him, considering that by the Fairy's Assistance the Prince his Son might perform Things that were infinitely out of his Power, notwithstanding his Grandeur and Riches; and therefore he was the more intent upon his Ruin, and went to consult the Magician again, who advis'd him to engage the Prince to bring him some of the Water of the Fountain of Lions.

In the Evening, when the Sultan was surrounded as usual by all his Court, and the Prince came to pay his Respects among the rest, he address'd himself to him in these Words; Son, said he, I have already express'd to you, how much I am obliged to you for the Present of the Tent you have procured me, that I look upon it as the most valuable Thing in all my Treasury; but you must do one thing more for me, which will be every whit as agreeable to me. I am inform'd; that the Fairy your Spouse makes use of a certain Water, called the Water of the Fountain of Lions, which cures all sorts of Fevers, even the most dangerous; and as I am perfectly well perswaded my Health is dear to you, I don't doubt but you will ask her for a Bottle of that Water for me, and bring it me as a sovereign Medicine, which I may make use of when I have occasion. Do me this other important piece of Service, and thereby compleat the Duty of a good Son towards a tender Father.

Prince *Ahmed*, who believed that the Sultan his Father would have been satisfied with so singular and useful a Tent, as that which he had brought, and that he would not have impos'd any new Task upon him, which might ha-
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and the Fairy's Displeasure, was struck almost dumb at this new Request, notwithstanding she had given him the Assurance of granting him whatever lay in her Power. After a long Silence, he said, I beg of your Majesty to be assured that there's nothing I would not undertake to procure you, which may contribute to the prolonging your Life, but I could wish it might not be by the means of my Wife. For this Reason I dare not promise to bring the Water; all I can do is, I'll assure you I will ask it of her, but my Reluctance is as great as when I ask'd for the Tent.

The next Morning Prince *Ahmed* returned to the Fairy *Paribanon*, and related to her sincerely and faithfully all that had pass'd at the Sultan his Father's Court, from the giving of the Tent, which he told her he received with the utmost Acknowledgment of the Favour she had done him, to the new Request he had charged him to make. And when he had done, he added, But, my Princess, I only tell you this, as a plain Account of what pass'd between me and my Father, but leave you to your own Pleasure whether you will gratify or reject this his new Desire.

No, no, reply'd the Fairy *Paribanon*, I am glad that the Sultan of the *Indies* knows that you are not indifferent to me; I will satisfy him, and whatever Advice the Magician can give him, (for I see that he hearkens to her) he shall find no fault with you nor me: And yet there's a great deal of Wickedness in this Demand, as you will understand by what I am going to tell you. The Fountain of Lions is situated in the middle of a Court of a great Castle, the Entrance into which is guarded by four large fierce Lions, two of which sleep alternately, while the other two wake. But don't let that frighten you, I'll give you Means to pass by them without any Danger.

The Fairy *Paribanon* was at that time very hard at work, and as she had several Clews of Thread by her, she took up one, and presenting it to Prince *Ahmed*, said, first take this Clew of Thread, I'll tell you presently the Use of it. In the second place, you must have two Horses, one you must ride your self, and the other you must lead, which must be loaded with a Sheep cut into four Quarters, that must be killed to Day. In the third place you must be provided with a Bottle, which I will give you to bring the Water in; set out early to morrow Morning, and when you have pass'd the Iron Gate, throw the Clew of Thread

before you, which will roul till it comes to the Gates of the Castle. Follow it, and when it stops, as the Gates will be open, you will see the four Lions; the two that are awake will, by their roaring, wake the other two; but don't be frightened, but throw each of them a Quarter of Mutton, and then clap Spurs to your Horse, and ride to the Fountain, fill your Bottle without lighting, and then return with the same Expedition. The Lions will be so busy eating, they will let you pass by them.

Prince *Ahmed* set out the next Morning at the Time appointed him by the Fairy, and followed her Directions punctually. When he arrived at the Gates of the Castle, he distributed the Quarters of Mutton among the four Lions, and passing through the midst of them with Intrepidity, got to the Fountain, fill'd his Bottle, and returned as safe and sound back as he went. When he had got a little distance from the Castle Gates, he turned him about, and perceiving two of the Lions coming after him, he drew his Sabre, and prepared himself for his Defence. But as he went forwards, he saw one of them turned out of the Road at some distance, and shewed by his Head and Tail, that he did not come to do him any Harm, but only to go before him, and that the other staid behind to follow, he put his Sword up again in its Scabbard. Guarded in this Manner, he arrived at the Capital of the *Indies*, but the Lions never left him till they had conducted him to the Gates of the Sultan's Palace; after which they return'd the same way they came, tho' not without frightening all that saw them, for all they went in a very gentle Manner, and shewed no Fierceness.

A great many Officers came to attend the Prince, while he dismounted his Horse, and afterwards conducted him into the Sultan's Apartment, who was at that time surrounded with his Favourites. He approached towards the Throne, laid the Bottle at the Sultan's Feet, and kiss'd the rich Tapestry which cover'd his Footstool, and then said, I have brought you, Sir, the healthful Water which your Majesty desired so much to keep among your other Rarities in your Treasury; but at the same time wish you such extraordinary Health, as never to have an occasion to make use of it.

After the Prince had made an End of his Compliment, the Sultan placed him on his Right Hand, and then said to him,

him, Son, I am very much obliged to you for this valuable Present, as also for the great Danger you have exposed your self to upon my Account, (which I have been informed of by a Magician who knows the Fountain of Lions) but do me the Pleasure, continued he, to inform me by what Address, or rather by what incredible Power you have been secured.

Sir, reply'd Prince *Ahmed*, I have no share in the Compliment your Majesty is pleased to make me, all the Honour is due to the Fairy my Spouse, whose good Advice I followed. Then he informed the Sultan what those Directions were, and by the Relation of this his Expedition, let him know how well he had behaved himself. When he had done, the Sultan, who shewed outwardly all the Demonstrations of great Joy, but secretly became more Jealous, retired into an inward Apartment, where he sent for the Magician.

The Magician at her Arrival saved the Sultan the Trouble to tell her of the Success of Prince *Ahmed's* Journey, which she had heard of before she came, and therefore was prepared with an infallible Means, as she pretended, this Means she communicated to the Sultan, who declared it the next Day to the Prince in the midst of all his Courtiers in these Words, Son, said he, I have one Thing more to ask of you, after which I shall expect nothing more from your Obedience nor your Interest with your Wife. This Request is, to bring me a Man not above a Foot and an half high, and whose Beard is thirty Foot long, who carries a Bar of Iron upon his Shoulders of five hundred Weight, which he uses as a Quarterstaff.

Prince *Ahmed*, who did not believe that there was such a Man in the World as his Father described, would gladly have excused himself; but the Sultan persisted in his Demand, and told him, the Fairy could do more incredible Things.

The next Day the Prince returned to his dear *Paribanon*, to whom he told his Father's new Demand, which he said he look'd upon to be a thing more impossible than the two first; for, added he, I cannot imagine there can be such a Man in the World; without doubt he has a Mind to try, whether or no I am so silly as to go about it, or he has a
Design

Design on my Ruin. In short, how can he suppose that I should lay hold on a Man so well armed, tho' he is but little? What Arms can I make use of to reduce him to my Will? If there are any Means, I beg you will tell them, and let me come off with Honour this Time.

Don't fright your self, Prince, reply'd the Fairy, you run a Risque in fetching the Water of the Fountain of Lions for your Father, but there's no Danger in finding out this Man, who is my Brother *Schaibar*, but is so far from being like me, tho' we both had the same Father, that he is of so violent a Nature, that nothing can prevent his giving bloody Marks of his Resentment for a slight Offence; yet on the other hand, is so good as to oblige any one in whatever they desire. He is made exactly as the Sultan your Father has described him, and has no other Arms, than a Bar of Iron of five hundred Pounds weight, without which he never stirs, and which makes him respected. I'll send for him, and you shall judge of the Truth of what I tell you; but be sure to prepare your self against being frightned at his extraordinary Figure when you see him. What! my Queen, reply'd Prince *Ahmed*, do you say *Schaibar* is your Brother? Let him be never so ugly or deformed, I shall be so far from being frightned at the sight of him, that, as our Brother I shall honour and love him.

The Fairy ordered a Gold Chafing-dish to be set with a Fire in it under the Porch of her Palace, with a Box of the same Metal, which was a Present to her, out of which taking a Perfume, and throwing it into the Fire, there arose a thick Cloud of Smoak.

Some Moments after the Fairy said to Prince *Ahmed*, see there comes my Brother, the Prince immediately perceived *Schaibar* coming gravely with his heavy Bar on his Shoulder, his long Beard, which he held up before him, and a pair of thick Mustachoes, which he tuck'd behind his Ears, and almost cover'd his Face. His Eyes were very small, and deep set in his Head, which was far from being of the smallest size, and on which he wore a Grenadier's Cap: besides all this, he was very much hump-back'd.

If Prince *Ahmed* had not known, that *Schaibar* was *Paribanon's* Brother, he would not have been able to have
look'd

look'd at him without Fear; but knowing first who he was, he stood by the Fairy without the least Concern.

Schaibar, as he came forwards, look'd at the Prince earnestly enough to have chill'd his Blood in his Veins, and ask'd *Paribanon*, when he first accosted her, who that Man was? To which she reply'd, he is my Husband, Brother; his Name is *Ahmed*, and is Son to the Sultan of the *Indies*. The Reason why I did not invite you to my Wedding, was, I was unwilling to divert you from an Expedition you was engaged in, and from which, I heard with Pleasure, you returned victorious; and so took the Liberty now to call for you.

At these Words, *Schaibar* looking on Prince *Ahmed* favourably, said, Is there any Thing, Sister, wherein I can serve him? It is enough to me that he is your Husband, to engage me to do for him whatever he desires. The Sultan his Father, reply'd *Paribanon*, has a Curiosity to see you, and I desire he may be your Guide to the Sultan's Court. He needs but lead me the way, I'll follow him, Brother, reply'd *Paribanon*, it is too late to go to Day, therefore stay till to Morrow Morning, and in the mean time I will inform you of all that has pass'd between the Sultan of the *Indies* and Prince *Ahmed* since our Marriage.

The next Morning, after *Schaibar* had been inform'd of this Affair, he and Prince *Ahmed* set out for the Sultan's Court. When they arrived at the Gates of the Capital, the People no sooner saw *Schaibar*, but they ran and hid themselves, and some shut up their Shops, and lock'd themselves up in their Houses, while others flying, communicated their Fear to all they met, who staid not to look behind them, but ran too, insomuch that *Schaibar* and Prince *Ahmed*, as they went along, found the Streets all desolate, till they came to the Palace, where the Porters instead of keeping the Gates, ran away too; so that the Prince and *Schaibar* advanced, without any Obstacle, to the Council-Hall, where the Sultan was seated on his Throne, and giving Audience. Here likewise the Huißirs, at the Approach of *Schaibar*, abandoned their Posts, and gave them free Admittance.

Schaibar went boldly and fiercely up to the Throne, without waiting to be presented by Prince *Ahmed*, and

accosted the Sultan of the *Indies* in these Words, Thou hast asked for me, said he, see here I am, what wouldst thou have with me?

The Sultan, instead of answering him, clapt his Hands before his Eyes, to avoid the sight of so terrible an Object; at which uncivil and rude Reception *Schaibar* was so much provoked, after he had given him the Trouble to come so far, that he instantly lifted up his Iron Bar, and kill'd him, before Prince *Ahmed* could intercede in his Behalf. All that he could do, was to prevent his killing the Grand Vizier, who sat not far from him, representing to him, that he had always given the Sultan his Father good Advice. These are they then, said *Schaibar*, who gave him bad, and as he pronounced these Words, he killed all the other Viziers and flattering Favourites of the Sultan, who were Prince *Ahmed's* Enemies; every time he struck, he killed some one or other, and none escaped, but they who were not so frightened as to stand staring and gaping, and who saved themselves by Flight.

When this terrible Execution was over *Schaibar* came out of the Council Hall into the midst of the Court-Yard, with the Iron Bar upon his Shoulder, and looking hard at the Grand Vizier, who owed his Life to Prince *Ahmed*, he said, I know here is a certain Magician, who is a greater Enemy of my Brother-in-Law's than all the base Favourites I have chastised; let that Magician be brought to me presently. The Grand Vizier immediately sent for her, and as soon as she was brought, *Schaibar* said, at the time he fetch'd a stroke at her with his Iron Bar, Take the Reward of thy pernicious Council, and learn to feign Sickness again.

Afterwards he said, this is not yet enough, I will use the whole Town after the same Manner, if they do not immediately acknowledge Prince *Ahmed* my Brother in Law for their Sultan, and the Sultan of the *Indies*. Then all that were there present made the Air echo again with the repeated Acclamations of long Life to Sultan *Ahmed*; and immediately after, he was proclaimed through the whole Town. *Schaibar* made him be clothed in the Royal Vestments, install'd him on the Throne, and after he had made all swear Homage and Fidelity to him, went and
fetch'd

fetch'd his Sister *Paribanou*, whom he brought with all the Pomp and Grandeur imaginable, and made her to be own'd Sultaneſs of the *Indies*.

As for Prince *Ali* and Princeſs *Nouronihar*, as they had no hand in the Conſpiracy againſt Prince *Ahmed*, and knew nothing of any, Prince *Ahmed* aſſigned them a conſiderable Province, with its Capital, where they ſpent the reſt of their Lives. Afterwards he ſent an Officer to Prince *Houſſain*, to acquaint him with the Change, and make him an Offer of which Province he liked beſt; but that Prince thought himſelf ſo happy in his Solitude, that he bid the Officer return the Sultan his Brother his Thanks for the Kindneſs he deſigned him, aſſuring him of his Submiſſion, and that the only Favour he deſired of him, was to give him Leave to live retired in the Place he had made choice of for his Retreat.

The Sultaneſs *Scheherazade* by theſe Stories kept the Sultan of the *Indies* in Suſpence, that he knew not, whether he ſhould put her to Death, or let her live; and ſhe perceiying his Irreſolution augmented his Eſteem for her by telling the following Story.



The Story of two Sisters, who envied their younger Sister.

SIR, ſaid ſhe, there was a Prince of *Perſia* named *Khofrouſchah*, who, when he firſt came to his Crown, to have a Knowledge of the World, took a great Pleaſure in Night-Adventures: He often diſguiſed himſelf, attended by a truſty Miniſter diſguiſed like him, and rambled thro' the whole City, and met with a great many particular Adventures, which I ſhall not at preſent entertain your Majeſty with; but I hope you will hear with Pleaſure, what happen'd to him upon his firſt Ramble, which was in a little time after his Acceſſion to his Father's Throne, who dying in a good old Age, left him Heir to the Kingdom of *Perſia*.

After the Ceremonies of his deceased Father's Funeral-Rites and his own Coronation were over, the new Sultan *Khofrouſchah*, as well thro' Inclination as Duty, went out
one

one Evening, attended by his Grand Visier, disguised like himself, to take notice of the Regularity observed by the Magistrates. Passing through a Street in that Part of the Town where the meaner Sort of People liv'd, he heard some People talking very loud, and going close up to the House, from whence the Noise came, and looking thro' a Crack in the Door, perceived a Light, and three Sisters on a Sofa, who were entred into a Chit-Chat after Supper. By what the eldest said, he presently understood the Subject of their Discourse was Wishes; for, said she, since we have got upon Wishes, mine shall be to have the Sultan's Baker for my Husband, for then I should eat my Belly full of that Bread, which by way of Excellence is called the Sultan's Bread. Now let's see if your Tastes are as good as mine. For my part, reply'd the second Sister, I wish I was the Sultan's chief Cook's Wife, for then I should eat of the most excellent Ragouts; and as I am persuaded, that as the Sultan's Bread is common in the Palace, I should not want any of that; therefore you see, Sister, addressing herself to her elder Sister, that I have a better Fancy than you.

Then the youngest Sister, who was very beautiful, and had more Charms and Wit than the two eldest, spoke in her Turn: For my part, Sisters, said she, I shall not limit my Desires, but will take a higher Flight; and since we are upon wishing, I wish to be the Sultan's Wife. I would make him Father of a Prince, whose Hair shall be Gold on one side of his Head and Silver on the other; when he cries, the Tears that fall from his Eyes shall be Pearls, and when he smiles, his Vermilion Lips shall look like a Rose-bud fresh blown.

The three Sisters Wishes, particularly the youngest's, seemed so singular to the Sultan *Khosrouschah*, that he resolved to gratify them in their Desires; and without communicating this his Design to his Grand Visier, he charged him only to take notice of the House, and bring the three Sisters before him the next Day.

The Grand Visier in executing the Sultan's Orders would but just give the three Sisters Time to dress themselves, and brought them to the Palace, and presented them to the Sultan, who said to them, do you remember the Wishes you made last Night when you were all in so pleasant a Mood?

Mood? Come, speak the Truth, I must know what they were.

At this Discourse the three Sisters were very much confounded : They cast down their Eyes and blush'd, and the Colour which rose in the Cheeks of the youngest, quite captivated the Sultan's Heart; and out of Modesty, and for fear they might have offended the Sultan by their Discourse they remained silent. The Sultan guessing at their Thoughts, to encourage them, said, fear nothing, I did not send for you for any Crime you have committed, and since I see that the Question I ask you, shocks you, and I know every one's Wish, I'll ease you of your Fears. You, added he, that wish'd to be my Wife, you shall have your Desire this Day; and you, continued he, addressing himself to the two elder Sisters, you shall also be married to my chief Baker and Cook.

As soon as the Sultan had declared his Pleasure, the youngest Sister, setting her Elders an example, threw herself at the Sultan's Feet, to express her Acknowledgment, Sir, said she, my Wish, since it is come to your Majesty's Knowledge, was only made by way of Discourse and Amusement: I am unworthy of the Honour you do me, and ask Pardon for my Boldness. The two other Sisters would have excused themselves also, but the Sultan interrupting them, said; No, no, it shall be so; every one's Wish shall be fulfilled.

The Nuptials were all celebrated that Day as the Sultan had resolved, but after a different Manner. The youngest Sisters were solemnized with all the Rejoicings usual at the Marriages of the Sultans of *Persia*, and the other two Sisters according to the Quality and Distinction of their Husbands; the one as the Sultan's Chief Baker, and the other as Head Cook.

The two elder Sisters thought the Disproportion of their Marriages infinitely great, and this Consideration made them so far from being content, tho' they were arrived at the utmost Height of their Wishes, and much beyond their Hopes: They were so much possessed with Envy, that it not only disturbed their own Joy, but was the cause of great Troubles and Afflictions to the Sultaness: their younger Sister. But at that time they had not an Opportunity
to

to communicate their Thoughts to each other, upon the Preference the Sultan had given their younger Sister to their Prejudice, but were altogether employed in dressing themselves against the Celebration of their Marriages. Some Days afterwards, when they had an Opportunity of seeing each other at the publick Balls, the eldest Sister said to the other, Well, Sister, what say you to our Sister's great Fortune? Is not she a fine Person to be a Sultaneſs? I must own, said the other Sister, I cannot conceive what Charms the Sultan could discover in her, to be so bewitch'd by a young Jade. That because she was somewhat younger than us, was that a Reason sufficient for him to prefer her! You were as worthy of his Bed, and in Justice he ought to have made choice of you.

Sister, said the elder, I should not have said any thing, if the Sultan had but pitch'd upon you; but that he should chuse that pert Slut, is what grieves me; but I will revenge my self; and you, I think, are as much concerned as me, therefore I would have us concert Measures together, and communicate to me which way you can imagine to mortify her, while I, on my side will inform you what my Desire of Revenge shall suggest to me.

After this wicked Plot, the two Sisters saw each other very frequently, and consult how they might disturb and interrupt the Happiness of the Sultaneſs their younger Sister. They propos'd a great many ways, but in deliberating about the Manner of executing them, they found so many Difficulties, that they durst not attempt them. In the mean time they often went together to make her Visits with a detestable Diffimulation; and every time gave her all the Marks of Friendship they could imagine, to persuade her how overjoy'd they were to have a Sister rais'd to so high a Fortune. The Sultaneſs for her Part always received them with all the Demonstrations of Esteem and Value they could expect from a Sister, who was not puffed up with her high Dignity, and loved them as cordially as before.

Some Months after her Marriage, the Sultaneſs found herself to be with Child, upon which the Sultan expressed great Joy, which was communicated to all the Court, and so spread throughout the capital City, and all Persia. Upon this News the two Sisters, came to pay their Compliments,

ments, and entering into a Discourse with their Sister, about her lying in, they profered their Service to deliver her, desiring her, if she was not provided with a Midwife, to accept of them.

The Sultaness said to them, obligingly, Sisters, I should desire no better, if it was absolutely in my Power to make choice of you; however, I am obliged to you for your good Will; but must submit to do as the Sultan shall think fit. Let your Husbands make Interest, and get some Courtier to ask this Favour of the Sultan; and if he speaks to me about it, be assured, that I shall not only express the pleasure he does me, but thank him for making choice of you.

The two Husbands applied themselves to some Courtiers their Patrons, and begged of them to use their Interest to procure their Wives the Honour they aspired to. Those Patrons interceded so much in their Behalf, as the Sultan promised them to consider of it, and was as good as his Word; for in Conversation with the Sultaness on that Affair, he told her, that he thought her Sisters were the most proper Persons to assist her in her Labour; but did not think to name and appoint them to be her Midwives, before he had asked her Consent. The Sultaness sensible of the Deference the Sultan so obligingly paid her, said to him, Sir, I am ready to do as your Majesty shall please to command me, but since you have been so kind as to think of my Sisters, I thank you for that Regard you have shewn them for my Sake; therefore I shall not dissemble with you, but tell you, I wou'd rather have them than Strangers.

Then the Sultan *Khofrouschab* named the Sultaness's two Sisters for to be her Midwives; and from that Time they passed to and fro, to the Palace, overjoyed at the Opportunity they should have of executing the detestable Wickedness they had meditated against the Sultaness their Sister.

When the Sultaness's Reckoning was out, she was safely delivered of a young Prince, as bright as the Day; but neither his Innocence nor Beauty, were capable of moving the cruel Hearts of the merciless Sisters. They wrapt him up carelessly in his Blankets, and put him into a little Basket, which they abandoned to the Stream of a small Canal, which ran under the Sultaness's Apartment, and declared she

he was delivered of a little dead Dog, which they produced. This disagreeable News was presently told to the Sultan, who conceived so much Grief and Anger thereat, as might have proved fatal to the Sultaneſs, if his Grand Vizier had not represented to him, that he could not, without Injuſtice, make her answerable for the Variations of Nature.

In the mean Time the Basket, in which the little Prince was expoſed, was carried by the Streams, beyond a Wall, which limited the Proſpect of the Sultaneſs's Apartment, and from thence floated with the Current down the Gardens. By Chance, the Attendant of the Sul-tan's Gardens, one of the principal and moſt conſiderable Officers of the Kingdom, was walking by the ſide of this Canal, and perceiving a Basket floating, called to a Gardiner, who was not far off, and bid him come preſently to him, and reach him that Basket, which he ſhewed him, that he might ſee what was in it. The Gardiner, with a Spade he had in his Hand, brought the Basket to the Side of the Canal, and took it up, and gave it to him.

The Intendant of the Gardens was extremely ſurprized to ſee a Child in the Basket, which tho' he eaſily knew, it was but juſt born, had very fine Features. This Intendant had been married ſeveral Years, and tho' he had always been deſirous of having Children, Heaven had never bleſſed him with any. This Accident interrupted his Walk: He made the Gardiner follow him with the Child; and when he came to his own Houſe, which was ſituated at the Entrance into the Gardens of the Palace, he went into his Wife's Apartment. Wife, ſaid he, as we have no Children of our own, God has ſent us a Boy here; I recommend him to you; provide him a Nurſe preſently, and take as much care of him, as if he was our own Son; for from this Moment I acknowledge him as ſuch. The Intendant's Wife received the Child with a great deal of Joy, and took a great Pleaſure in having the Care of him. The Intendant himſelf would not inquire too narrowly, from whence the Child came, but knew very well, it came not far off the Sultaneſs's Apartment, and that it was not his Buſineſs to examine too far into Secrets, nor to create Diſturbances.

The Year after the Sultaness was brought to bed of another Prince, on whom the ill-natured Sisters had no more Compassion than of his Brother, but exposed him likewise in a Basket, and set him a drift in the Canal, pretending this Time, that the Sultaness was delivered of a Cat. It was happy also for this Child, that the Intendant of the Gardens was walking by the Canal-side, who had it carried to his Wife, and charged her to take as much Care of it as the first; which suited as well her Inclination, as it was agreeable to the Intendant.

The Sultan of *Persia* was more enraged this Time against the Sultaness than before, and she had felt the Effects of his Anger, if the Grand Visier, by his Remonstrances had not opposed him.

The third Time the Sultaness laid in, she was delivered of a Princess, which, innocent Babe, underwent the same Fate as the Princes its Brothers, but was preserved from a certain Death, by the Compassion and Charity of the Intendant, as well as the two Princes her Brothers.

To this Inhumanity the two Sisters added a Lye, and used the same Cheat as before. They produced a Piece of Wood, and affirmed it to be a Mole which the Sultaness was delivered of.

The Sultan *Khosroushah* could no longer contain himself, when he was informed of the News, What! said he, this Woman, unworthy of my Bed, will fill my Palace with Monsters! let her live! No, it shall not be, added he, she is a Monster herself, and I will rid the World of her. He pronounced this Sentence of Death, and ordered the Grand Visier to take Care to have her executed.

The Grand Visier and the Courtiers, who were present, cast themselves at the Sultan's Feet, to beg of him to revoke that Sentence. Your Majesty, I hope, will give me Leave, said the Grand Visier, to represent to you, that the Laws, which condemn Persons to Death, were made to punish Crimes: The three extraordinary Lyings in of the Sultaness are not Crimes; for in what can she be said to have contributed towards them? A great many other Women have done, and do the same every Day, and are to be pitied, but not punished. Your Majesty may abstain from seeing her, and let her live. The Affliction in which

she will spend the rest of her Life, after the Loss of your Favour, will be a Punishment great enough.

The Sultan of *Persia* considered with himself, and found that it was Injustice in him to condemn the Sultaneſs to Death, and said, Let her live then; I will give her Life; but it shall be on this Condition, that she shall desire to die more than once a Day. Let a Place be built for her at the Gate of the Principal Mosque, with Iron Bars to the Windows, and let her be put into it in the courſest Habit; and every Muſſel-man, that shall go into the Mosque to Prayers, shall spit in her Face: If any one fail, I will have him expoſed to the ſame Punishment; and that I may be punctually obeyed, I charge you, Viſier, to appoint Perſons to ſee this done.

The Sultan pronounced this laſt Sentence in a Tone of ſo much Reſolution, that the Grand Viſier durſt not open his Mouth; and it was executed to the great Satisfaction of the two envious Siſters; A Cage, or Lodge was built, and the Sultaneſs, truly worthy of Compaſſion, as ſoon as her Month was up, was put into it, and expoſed ignominiouſly to the Contempt of the People; which Uſage as ſhe did not deſerve, ſhe bore with a great deal of Conſtancy and Reſolution, to the Admiration, as well as Compaſſion of thoſe, who judged better Things than the Vulgar.

The two Princes and the Princeſs were nurled and brought up by the Intendant of the Gardens and his Wife, with all the tendereſs of a true Father and Mother; and as they advanced in Age, they all ſhewed Marks of ſuperior Greatneſs; and the Princeſs, in particular, a charming Beauty, which increaſed the Affections of the Intendant and his Wife, who called the Name of the eldeſt Prince, *Bahman*, and the ſecond, *Perviz*, both Names of the moſt antient Sultans of *Persia*; and the Princeſs, *Parizade*, which Name alſo had been born by ſeveral Sultaneſſes.

As ſoon as the two Princes were old enough, the Intendant provided proper Maſters to teach them to read and write and the Princeſs their Siſter, who was often with them, when they were learning their Leſſons, ſhewing a great deſire to learn to read and write, tho' much younger than they; the Intendant was ſo much taken with that Diſpoſition of hers, that he ordered the Maſter to teach her alſo, who by Emulation and her pretty, lively, and piercing Wit,

Wit, became in a little Time as great a Proficient as her Brothers.

From that Time the Brothers and Sister had all the same Masters in other Arts and Sciences, as Geography, History, &c. all which came so easily to them, that, in a little Time they made so wonderful a Progress, that their Masters were amazed, and frankly owned, that if they held on so but a little longer, they could teach them no farther.

At the Hours given them for their Recreation, the Princess learned to sing, and play upon all Sorts of Instruments; and when the Princes were learning to mount the managed Horse, and to ride, she would not permit them to have that Advantage over her, but went thro' all Exercises with them, learned to ride the great Horse, bend the Bow, and dart the Javelin, and oftentimes excelled in them.

The Intendant of the Gardens was so overjoyed to find his adopted Children so accomplished in all the Perfections of Body and Mind, and that they answered so well the Charge he had been at, upon their Education, that he resolved to be still at a greater Expence, for whereas he had, till then, been content only with his House, at the Entrance of the Garden, and kept no Country House, he, upon their Account, purchased a Country-seat, at a small Distance from the Town, and laid out a great Sum of Money there in arable Land, Meadows and Woods. As the House was not fine, nor large enough, he pulled it down, and spared no Expence, to make it Magnificent. He went every Day to hasten, by his Presence, the great Number of Work-men he had at Work; and as soon as one Apartment was finished, and fit to receive him, he stay'd there for several Days together, when his Presence was not necessary at Court, and by his Diligence, the House was finish'd, answerable to the Magnificence of the Edifice. Afterwards he made Gardens, according to the Plan he had drawn out, and the Manner of the great Lords in *Persia*, and took in a large Compass of Ground, for a Park, which he walled round, and stock'd with Fallow-Deer, that the Princes and Princesses might divert themselves with Hunting, when they pleased.

When

When this Country-Seat was finish'd, the Intendant of Gardens went, and cast himself at the Sultan's Feet, and after representing to him how long he had served him, and the Infirmities he found growing upon him, he begged he might deliver up his Charge and Post, and retire. The Sultan gave him Leave, and the sooner, because he was satisfied of his long Services, both in his Father's Reign, and during his own; and before he went from him, he asked him, what Recompence he should give him? Sir, reply'd the Intendant of the Gardens, I have received so many Obligations from your Majesty, and the late Sultan your Father, of happy Memory, that I desire no more than the Honour of dying in your Favour.

He took his Leave of the Sultan *Khosrouschah*, and afterwards returned to the Country Retreat he had built, with the two Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz*, and the Princess *Parizade*; for his Wife, she had been dead some Years, and he himself, lived not above six Months with them, before he was surprized by so sudden a Death, that he had not Time to give them the least Account of their Birth, which he had resolved to do that Night. They liv'd as they had always done, and agreeable to the Education he had given them.

The Princes *Bahman* and *Perviz*, and the Princess *Parizade*, who knew no other than that the Intendant to the Sultan's Gardens, was their Father, regretted and bewailed him as such, and paid him all the Honours in his Funeral Obsequies, as their Duty and Gratitude required of them. They were content with the plentiful Fortune he left them, and lived together in a perfect Union, free from the Ambition of distinguishing themselves at Court in Places of greater Honour, which they might easily have compassed.

One Day when the two Princes were at an Hunting, and the Princess *Parizade* stay'd at Home, a Religious old Woman came to the Gate, and desired Leave to go in to say her Prayers, it being then the Hour. The servants went, asked the Princess's Leave, who order'd them to shew her into the Oratories, which the Intendant had taken Care to fit up in his House, for want of a Mosque in that Neighbourhood, and bid them also, after she had done Prayers,

Prayers, shew her the Houle and Gardens, and then bring her to her.

The Religious old Woman went into the Oratory, said her Prayers, and when she came out again, two of the Princess's Women, who waited on her, invited her, to see the House and Gardens, which Civility she accepted of, and followed them from one Apartment to another, and observed, as a Person, who understood what belonged to Furniture, the nice Disposition of every Thing. Afterwards she was conducted to the Princess, who waited for her in the great Hall, which in Property, Beauty and Riches, exceeded all the Apartments she had admired before.

As soon as the Princess saw the devout Woman, she said to her, Good Mother, come near and sit down by me, I am overjoy'd at the Happiness of having the Opportunity of profiting for some Moments, by the good Example and Discourse of such a Person as you, who has taken the right way, by dedicating your self to the Service of God; I wish every Body were as wise.

The Religious Women, instead of sitting upon a *Sofa*, would only sit upon the Edge of it, but the Princess would not permit her to do so, but got off her Seat, and taking her by the Hand, obliged her to come and sit by her. The good Woman, sensible of the Civility, said, Madam, I ought not have so much Respect shewed me; but since you command me, I will obey you. When she had sat down, before they entred into any Conversation, one of the Princess's Women brought a little Table of Mother of Pearl and Ebony, with a *China* Dish of Cakes upon it, and a great many others, full of Fruits in Season, and wet and dry Sweet-Meats set around it.

The Princess took up one of the Cakes, and presenting her with it, said, Come, eat, good Mother, and make Choice of what you like best; you had need have something on your Stomach, after coming so far. Madam, replied the good Woman, I am not used to eat such nice Things, but will not refuse what God has sent me by so liberal a Hand.

While the Religious Woman was eating, the Princess eat something too, to bear her Company, and asked her a great many Questions upon the Exercise of her Devotion, and

how she lived: All which Questions she answered with great Modesty; talking of several Things, at last she asked her, how she liked the House?

Madam, answered the Devotee, I must certainly have very bad Judgment to disapprove of it, since it is beautiful, regular, and Magnificently furnished, and all its Ornaments well adjusted: Its Situation is an agreeable and pleasant Part of the Country, and no Gardens can be more delightful; but yet if you will give me Leave to speak my Mind freely, I will take the Liberty to tell you, that this House would be incomparable, if it had three Things which I know of. My good-Mother, reply'd the Princess *Parizade*, what are those three Things? I conjure you in God's Name, to tell me what they are; I'll spare nothing to have them, if it is possible to get them.

Madam, replied the Devotee, the first of those three Things is the Talking Bird, which is called *Bulbul-ezar*, and is so singular a Creature, that it can call all the singing Birds about it, which come to accompany him with their Songs; the second is the Singing Tree, the Leaves of which are so many Mouths, which form an Harmonious Consort of different Voices, and never ceases. The Third Thing is the Yellow, or Golden Water, a single Pot of which, being brought in a proper Vessel, and poured into a large Bason, made for it in any Garden, it fills it immediately, and forms a Fountain, which continually plays, and yet never overflows the Bason.

Ah! My good Mother, cry'd the Princess, how much I am obliged to you, for the Knowledge of these Things; they are surprizing, and I never heard of such curious and wonderful Things before; but as I am well persuaded, that you know where they are, I expect, that you should do me the Favour to tell me.

Madam, reply'd the good Woman, I should be unworthy the Hospitality you have with so much Bounty shewed me, if I should refuse to satisfy your Curiosity in this Point, and am glad to have the Honour to tell you, that these three Things are to be met with on the Confines of this Kingdom, towards *India*; the Road lyes before your House, and who ever you send, needs but to follow twenty Days, and on the Twentieth let him but ask the first Person he meets, where the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and

and Yellow Water are, and he will be inform'd. After these Words she rose from her Seat, took her Leave, and went her way.

The Princess *Parizade's* Thoughts were so taken up with what the Religious Woman had told her of the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and Yellow Water, that she never perceived when she went away, till she was going to ask her some Questions, for her better Information; for she thought, that what she had told her was not sufficient to expose herself to undertake a Journey to no Purpose, however, she would not send after her to bring her back, but endeavoured to remember all she had told her; and when she thought she had recollected every Word, she took a great Pleasure in thinking of the Satisfaction she should have, if she could get these wonderful Things into her Possession; But then, again, the Difficulties she apprehended, and the Fear of not succeeding, made her very uneasy.

She was lost in these Thoughts, when her Brothers returned from Hunting, who, when they enter'd the great Hall, instead of finding her merry and brisk, as she used to be, were amazed to see her so pensive, and hang down her Head, as if something troubled her.

Sister, said Prince *Bahman*, what's become of all your Mirth and Pleasantry? What! are you not well? or has some Misfortune befallen you? Have you any Reason to be so melancholy? come, tell us, that we may do what is becoming us, and give you some Relief; if any Body has affronted you, we will revenge it.

The Princess *Parizade* remained in the same Posture some time, but at last lifted up her Eyes to look at her Brothers, and then held them down again, telling them nothing disturbed her.

Ah! Sister, said Prince *Bahman*, you hide the Truth from us, and I am sure there's something extraordinary, makes you so grave; it is impossible, for the short Time, we have been absent, we could observe so sudden a Change, if nothing was the Matter with you: You would not have us satisfied with the Answer you have given us: Don't conceal any Thing from us, unless you would have us believe, that you renounce our Friendship, and the strict Union we have hitherto preserved from our Infancy.

The Princess unwilling to break with her Brothers, would not let them long entertain such a Thought, or Suspicion, but said, When I told you nothing disturbed me, I meant, nothing, that was of any great Importance, either to you or me; but since you press me to tell you by our strict Union and Friendship, I will. You think, and I always believed so too, that this house, which our Father has built, was compleat in every Thing; but this Day I have learn'd, that it wants three Things, which would render it so perfect, that no Country seat could be compared with it. These three Things are the Talking Bird, the Singing Tree, and the Golden Water; and after she had informed them of the Excellency of these three Rarities: A Religious Woman, added she, has made this Discovery to me, and told me, the Place where they are to be found, and the way thither; perhaps, you may imagine these Things Trifles, and our House without these Additions, fine enough; but think what you please, for my Part, I must tell you, that I am perswaded, they are absolutely necessary, and I shall not be easy without them; therefore whether you value them, or not, I desire you to give me your Opinion, what Person you may think proper to send on this Conquest.

Sister, reply'd Prince *Bahman*, nothing can concern you, which we have not an equal Interest in: It is enough you have a Desire for the Things you mention, to oblige us to endeavour to get them; but if you had not, we might; I am perswaded my Brother's of my Opinion; and therefore we ought to undertake this Conquest, as you call it; for the Importance and Singularity of it deserves that Name, and I will take that Charge upon my self, tell me only the Place, and the Way to it, and I will defer my Journey no longer than till to Morrow.

Brother, said Prince *Parviz*, it is not convenient, that you, who are the Prop and Stay of the Family, should be absent so long; I desire my Sister would join with me to oblige you to abandon your Design, and think well of my going; I hope, I may be able to acquit my self as well, and Things will be more in Order at Home. I am perswaded, Brother, of your Good will, reply'd Prince *Bahman*, and that you will acquit your self as well, or better than me in this Journey; but it is a Thing I have resolved on, and

and will do; and I have no Occasion to recommend to you the Necessity of staying at Home with our Sister. The Remainder of that Day he spent in making Provisions for his Journey, and informing himself from the Princess, of the Directions the Devotee left her, that he might not miss his Way.

The next Morning early, Prince *Bahman* took Horse and Prince *Parviz*, and the Princess *Parizade*, who would see him set out, embraced, and wished him a good Journey; but in the midst of their Adieus, the Princess remembered one Thing which she never thought on before. Alas! Brother! said she, I had quite forgot the Accidents which attend Travellers: Who knows whether I shall ever see you again? Light, I beseech you, and do not go this Journey. I would rather be deprived of the Sight and Possession of the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and Yellow Water, than run the Risque of never seeing you more.

Sister, reply'd Prince *Bahman*, smiling at the sudden Fears of the Princess *Parizade*, My Resolution is fix'd, and was it not, I should determine upon it now. The Accidents you speak of, befall but those who are unfortunate. 'Tis true, I maybe of that Number; but there are more, who are not so, than who are; but as Events are doubtful, and I may fail in this Undertaking, all I can do is to leave you this Knife.

Then Prince *Bahman* pulling a Knife out of his Pocket, and presenting it in the Sheath to the Princess, said here Sister, take this Knife, and give your self the Trouble, sometime, to pull it out of the Sheath; when you see it clean, as it is now, it shall be a Sign, that I am alive; but if you find it stain'd with Blood, then you may believe me dead, and favour me with your Prayers.

The Princess *Parizade* could obtain nothing more of Prince *Bahman*, who bid her and Prince *Perviz* adieu for the last time, and rid away well mounted, arm'd, and equipp'd; and when he got into the Road, never turn'd to the right Hand nor to the left, but went directly forwards through *Persia*. The twentieth Day he perceived on the Road-side, an old Man, the Sight of whom was frightful, who was sat under a Tree, some small Distance from a thatch'd House, which was his Habitation.

His Eye-brows were as white as Snow, and so was the Hair of his Head ; his Mustachoes turned up to his Nose, and with his Beard, which reached down to his Waste, hid his Mouth. The Nails of his Hands and Feet were grown to an excessive Length ; his Hat was slouched about his Ears ; he had no Cloaths, but only a Mat thrown over his Shoulders.

This good old Man was a Dervise, who had for many Years retired from the World, and had neglected himself, and went in that Manner to give himself up intirely to the Service of God.

Prince *Bahman*, who had been all that Morning very diligent, to see if he could meet with any Body that could give him any Information of the Place he was going to, stopp'd when he came near the Dervise, and light from off his Horse, to be the more conformable to the Directions the Religious Woman had given the Princess *Parizade*, and leading his Horse by the Bridle, advanced towards him, and saluting him, said, God prolong your Days, good Father, and fulfil your Desires.

The Dervise returned the Prince's Salute, but so unintelligibly, that he could not understand one Word he said ; Prince *Fahman* perceiving, that this Obstruction of Speech proceeded from the Dervise's Mustachoes hanging over his Mouth and at the same Time unwilling to go any farther without the Instructions he wanted, he pull'd out a pair of Scissars, he had about him, having ty'd his Horse fast to a Tree, said to the Dervise, Honest Friend, I want to have some Talk with you, but your Mustachoes prevent my understanding what you say ; and if you will consent, I will cut off some Part of them, and your Eye-brows, which disfigure you so much, that you look more like a Bear than a Man.

The Dervise never opposed the Prince, but let him do what he would : And when the Prince cut off as much Hair as he thought fit, he perceived, that the Dervise had a good, clear, fresh Skin, and that he was not so old as he appeared to be. Honest Dervise, said he, if I had a Glass, I would shew you how young you look ; you are now a Man, but before, no Body could tell what you were.

The Careless and Behaviour of Prince *Fahman* made the Dervise smile and return his Compliment, Sir, said he, who-

whoever you are, I am infinitely obliged to you for the Favour you have done me, and am ready to shew my Acknowledgment by doing any Thing for you, that lyes in my Power; you must have light here upon some Account or other; therefore tell me what it is, and I'll endeavour to serve you if I can.

Good Dervise, reply'd Prince *Bahman*, I have come a great way, and am in Search after the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and the Yellow Water; I know these three Things are not far from hence, but cannot tell exactly the Place where they are to be found; if you know, I conjure you to shew me the Way, that I may not mistake it, and lose my Labour.

The Prince, while he spoke, observed, that the Dervise changed countenance, held down his Eyes, and look'd very serious; and instead of making any Reply, remained silent; which obliged him to say to him again, Good Father, I fancy you did not hear me; tell me whether you know what I ask'd you or not? that I may not lose my Time, but inform my self somewhere else.

At last the Dervise broke Silence; Sir, said he to Prince *Bahman*, I know the Way you ask of me, but the Friendship, which I conceived for you, the first Moment I saw you, and which is grown stronger by the Favour you have done me, kept me in suspense, to know, whether I should give you the Satisfaction you desire. What Motive can hinder it, reply'd the Prince? and what Difficulties do you find in it? I'll tell you, reply'd the Dervise, the Danger you are going to expose your self to, is greater than you believe it to be. A great Number of fine Gentlemen, who have had as much Bravery and Courage as you can have passed by here, asked me the same Question you do now; and when I had used all my Endeavours to perswade them to desist, they would not believe me; at last I have yielded to their Importunities, and against my Will shewed them the Way, and I can assure you, they have all perished, and not one came back again; therefore if you have any Regard for your Life, take my Advice, go no farther, but return Home.

Prince *Bahman*, persisted in his Resolution. I am obliged to you, said he to the Dervise, for the Friendship you express for me, but will not believe, that your Advice is

sincere: But whatever the Danger may be, you tell me of, nothing shall make me change my Intent; whoever attacks me, I am well arm'd, and can say, I am as brave as any one: But they who shall attack you, are not to be seen, reply'd the Dervise, for there are a great many of them; How will you defend your self against invisible Persons? It's no Matter what you say, answered the Prince, you shall not perswade me from my Design; and since you know the Way, I conjure you once more, to tell me, and not refuse me that Favour.

When the Dervise found he could not prevail upon Prince *Bahman*, and that he was obstinately bent to pursue his Journey, notwithstanding the wholesome Advice he gave him, he put his Hand in a Bag, that lay by him, and pulled out a Bowl, which he presented to him. Since I cannot get you to hear me, and take my Advice, said he, take this Bowl, and when you are on Horse-back, throw it before you, and follow it to the Foot of a Mountain, where it will stop. As soon as the Bowl stops, light; and leave your Horse with the Bridle over his Neck, and he'll stand in the same Place till you return. As you go up the Hill, you will see on your right and left Hand, a great Quantity of large Chalk-stones, and will hear on all Sides of you, confused Voices, which will say a thousand injurious Things to you, to discourage you, and prevent your climbing up the Hill: But you must have a Care, lest you be afraid, and above all things, not to turn your Head and look behind you; for in that Instant that you do, you will be changed into such a Stone, as those you see, which are all so many Gentlemen, who have fail'd in this Enterprize. If you escape the great Danger, which I give you but a slight Description of, that you might think of it, and get to the Top of the Mountain, you will see a Cage, and in that Cage is the Bird you seek; ask him for the Singing Tree and Yellow Water, and he will shew you where they are. I have nothing more to say, since I have told you what to do, and what Danger you must avoid; but if you would believe me, you would take my Advice, and not expose your Life. Consider once more, while you have time, that the Condition is almost insuperable, since it is almost impossible to arm your self against that Surprise, as you may well comprehend.

I am very much obliged to you for your Advice, reply'd Prince *Bahman*, after he had received the Bowl, but cannot follow it; however, I'll endeavour to conform myself to that Part of it, which bids me not look behind me, and hope to come and see you again soon, and thank you more, when I have got what I am in Search after. After these Words, to which the Dervise made no other Answer, than, that he should be overjoyed to see him again, he mounted his Horse, took his Leave of the Dervise, with a low Bow, and threw the Bowl before him.

The Bowl rowled away, and at the last had as much Strength as when Prince *Bahman* first delivered it out of his Hand, which obliged him to put his Horse to a good Pace, to follow it, and when it came to the Foot of the Mountain it stopp'd, as the Dervise said. The Prince light from off his Horse, which never stirr'd off the Spot; and having first look'd up the Mountain, and seen the black Stones, afterwards began to climb up it, but had not gone four Steps, before he heard the Voices, tho' he could see no Body: Some said, Where's that rash Man going? What would he have? Don't let him pass. Others, Stop him; catch him; kill him; and others again, as loud as Thunder, Ah. Thief! Murderer! Afs! Assassin! while some in a gibing Tone cry'd, No, no; don't hurt him; let the pretty Thing pass; we keep the Cage and Bird for him.

Notwithstanding all those troublesome Voices, Prince *Bahman* mounted with Courage and Resolution; but the Voices increasing their Noise both behind and before him; at last he was frighten'd; his Legs trembled under him; he reel'd, and presently found, that all his Strength and Courage failed him, he forgot the Dervise's Advice, turned about to run down the Hill, and was that Instant changed into a black Stone, which Metamorphosis had happen'd to many more besides him, who had attempted the same Thing. His Horse likewise underwent the same Fate.

From the Time of Prince *Bahman's* Departure the Princess *Parizade* always wore the Knife and Sheath in her Girdle, and pull'd it out several Times in a Day, to know whether her Brother was alive? and oftentimes she and Prince *Perviz*, who often ask'd her, what News, discoursed together on that Subject.

On the fatal Day, Prince *Bahman* was metamorphos'd into a Stone, as Prince *Perviz* and the Princess were talking together in the Evening, as usual, the Prince desired his Sister to pull out the Knife, to know how their Brother did. The Princess pulled out the Knife, and looking upon it, and seeing the Blood run down the Point, was seized with so much Horror and Grief, that she threw it down. Ah! my dear Brother, cry'd she, I have been the Cause of your Death, and shall never see you more! How unhappy am I! Why did I tell you of the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and Yellow Water; or rather, what Matter of Importance was it to me, to know, whether the Religious Woman thought this House ugly or handsome, or complete or not? I wish to Heaven, she had never address'd herself to me. Deceitful Hypocrite, added she, is this the Return thou hast made me, for the Kind Reception I gave thee? Why didst thou tell me of a Bird, a Tree, and a Water? which all imaginary, as I am perswaded they are, by my dear Brother's Death, yet disturb me, and all by thy Incantment.

Prince *Perviz* was as much afflicted at the Death of Prince *Bahman*, as the Princess, but not to waste Time in needless Regrets, as he knew by the Princess's Sorrow, that she still passionately desired the Possession of the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and the Golden Water, he interrupted her, and said, Our Regret and Tears for our Brother *Bahman*, are all vain and useless, since all our Grief cannot restore him to Life again; 'tis the Will of Heaven, and we must submit to it, and adore the Decrees of the Almighty, without searching into them. Why should you now doubt of the Truth of what the holy Woman told you? Do you think, she spoke to you of three Things, that were not in being? and that she invented that Story on purpose to deceive you, who had given her no Cause to do so? since you received her with all the Bounty and Civility possible? let us rather believe, that our Brother's Death is owing to some Fault or Accident, which we cannot imagine; and therefore it ought not to prevent us from pursuing what we do and ought to wish for. I offer to go this Journey, and am in the same Mind and Readiness still; his Example has no Effect upon my Resolution; to Morrow I'll go myself.

The Princess did all she could to dissuade Prince *Perviz* off this Journey, conjuring him, not to expose her to the Loss of two Brothers: But he was resolved, and all the Remonstrances she could urge, had no Effect upon him. Before he went, that she might know what Success he had, he left her, as his Brother had done, a Knife, a Neck-lace of an hundred Pearls, telling her, that if they would not run, when she told them upon the String, but remain fix'd, that should be a certain Sign, he had undergone the same Fate as his Brother; but at the same Time told her, he hoped, that would never happen, but that he should have the Happiness to see her again to her utmost Satisfaction.

Prince *Perviz*, on the twentieth Day from his setting out, met with the same Dervise in the same Place his Brother *Bahman* had done before him. He went directly up to him, and after he had saluted him, asked him, if he could tell him where to find the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and the Golden Water. The Dervise made the same Difficulties and Remonstrances he had done to Prince *Bahman*, telling him, that a young Gentleman, who very much resembled him, had been with him, within a short Time, that overcome by his Importunity, and pressing Influence, he had shewn him the Way, by giving him a Guide, and had told him, how to behave himself to succeed; but withal, that he had never seen him since, and never disputed, but he had the same Fate as many more had undergone.

Good Dervise, answered Prince *Perviz*, I know whom you speak of; he was my Brother, and I am informed of the Certainty of his Death, but know not what it was. I can tell, reply'd the Dervise; he was changed into a black Stone, as all I speak of have been, and you ought to expect the same, unless you observe more exactly than he has done, the good Advice I gave him, in Case you persist in your Resolution, which I once more intreat you to desist from.

Dervise, said Prince *Perviz*, I cannot enough express, how much I am obliged to you for the Care you take of my Life, since I am a Stranger to you, and have done nothing to deserve so much Good Will: But I must tell you, I have deliberated too long upon this Enterprize, to quit it now; therefore beg of you, to do me the same Favour you have
done

done my Brother. Perhaps, I may have better Success, and may follow the Directions I expect from you. Since I cannot prevail with you, said the Dervise, nor perswade you not to undertake, what you have so obstinately resolv'd on; if my Age did not prevent me, and I could stand, I would get up to reach you a Bowl, I have here, which will shew you the Way.

Upon this, the Prince light off his Horse, and went up to the Dervise, who took a Bowl out of his Bag, in which he had a great many others, and gave it him, with the same Directions he had given Prince *Bahman*.

Prince *Perviz* thanked the Dervise, and when he had mounted his Horse, and taken his Leave, he threw his Bowl. When the Bowl came to the Bottom of the Hill, it stopp'd, and the Prince got off his Horse, and stood some time to recollect upon the Dervise's Directions, and then began to walk up with a Resolution to reach the Top; but before he had gone about six Steps, he heard a Voice behind him, which seemed to be very near him, say, in an insulting Tone, Stay, rash Youth, that I may punish thee for thy Boldness.

Upon this Affront, the Prince forgetting the Dervise's Advice, clapt his Hand upon his Sword, and drew it; and turned about to revenge himself, but had scarce Time to see, that no Body followed him, before he and his Horse were changed into Black Stones.

In the mean Time, the Princess *Parizade*, several Times a Day, after her Brother *Perviz* set out, flung over her Neck-lace, which she generally held in her Hand, and failed not every Night, she went to Bed, to do the same, and tie it about her Neck, and in the Morning count over the Pearls again.

The Day, that Prince *Perviz* was changed into a Stone she was pulling over the Pearls, as she used to do, when all of a sudden she could not stir them, and never disputed, but that it was a certain Token, that the Prince, her Brother was dead: But as she had determined before, what to do, in Case it should so happen, she lost no Time in outward Shews of Grief, which she disguised as much as possible; but having armed, and disguised her self in Man's Apparel, she took Horse the next Morning, having told her Ser-

vants,

vants, she should return in two or three Days, and took the same Road her Brothers had done before her.

The Princess, who had been used to ride on Horseback in Hunting, supported the Fatigue of so long a Journey, better than other Ladies could have done, and as she made the same days Journeys as her Brothers, she met with the Dervise on the twentieth. When she came near him, she light off her Horse, and leading him by the Bridle, went and sat down by the Dervise, and after she had saluted him, she said, Honest Man, will you give me Leave to sit by you? and do me the Favour to tell me, if you have not heard, that there are some-where, hereabouts, a Talking-Bird, Singing Tree, and Golden Water.

Madam, answered the Dervise, since by your Voice, I know you to be a Woman disguised in Man's Apparel, I thank you for your Compliment, and receiving the Honour you do me with a great deal of Pleasure. I know the Place very well, where these Things, you speak of, are to be found: But what makes you ask me this Question?

Good Dervise, reply'd the Princess, I have had such an Advantageous Relation of them given me, that I have a great desire to have them. Madam, reply'd the Dervise, you have been told the Truth; these things are more singular, and surprizing, than they have been represented to you; but you have not been acquainted with the insurmountable Difficulties to obtain them. If you had been inform'd of them, you would not certainly have undertaken so dangerous and troublesome an Enterprize. Take my Advice, and don't go any farther, and don't urge me to contribute towards your Ruin.

Good Father, said the Princess, I have come a great way, and should be sorry to return back again, without executing my Design. You talk of Difficulties, and my running in Danger of my Life; but you do not tell me, what those Difficulties are, and wherein the Danger lies, which is what I desire to know, that I may consider on it, and know, whether I have Courage and Resolution enough to undertake it.

Then the Dervise repeated to the Princess *Parizade*, what he had said to the Princes *Bahman* and *Perviz*, exaggerating upon the Difficulties in climbing up to the Top of the Mountain, where she was to make her self Mistress

of

of the Bird, which would inform her of the Singing Tree, and Golden Water. The Noise and Clamour, of the terrible threatening Voices, which she would hear on all Sides of her, without seeing any Body, and in short, the great Quantity of black Stones, the only Objects most capable of striking Terror into her, or any other Person, to reflect, that those Stones were so many brave Gentlemen, metamorphosed into that Form and Substance, for not observing the principal Directions for a Person to succeed in that Undertaking, which was not to look behind them, before they had got Possession of the Bird and Cage.

When the Dervise had done, the Princess reply'd, By what I comprehend from your Discourse, the Difficulty of succeeding in this Affair, is, first the getting up to the Cage without being frightened at the terrible Voices I shall hear, and Secondly, not to look behind me: For this last, I hope I shall be Mistress enough of my self to observe it: As to the First, I own, that those Voices, such as you represent them to be, are capable of striking Terror into the most Undaunted: But as in all Enterprizes and Dangers, every one may use Art and Management, I desire to know of you, if I may make use of one of great Importance. And what is that Management you would make use of, said the Dervise. To stop my Ears so hard with Cotton, answered the Princess, that I may not hear the Voices, and by that Means, prevent the Impression they may make upon my Mind, and that I may not lose the use of my Reason.

O Madam, reply'd the Dervise, of all the Persons, who have address'd themselves to me, to know the Way, I don't know, that ever any one made use of what you propose: But this I know, they all perished. If you persist in your Design, you may make the Experiment; but I would not have you expose your self to the Danger.

What! reply'd the Princess, not persist in my Design? I am sure I shall succeed, and am resolv'd to try the Experiment, therefore only want to know which Way I must go, which is a Favour I conjure you not to refuse me. The Dervise exhorted her again, to consider well, what she was going to do; but finding her resolute, he took out a Bowl, and presenting it to her, said, Take this Bowl, and when you have mounted your Horse again, throw it before you,
and

and follow it till it stops, at the Bottom of the Mountain, and there light off your Horse; you know the rest; but be sure to remember what I have told you.

After the Princess *Parizade* had thanked the Dervise, and taken her Leave of him, she mounted her Horse, threw the Bowl before her, and followed it till it stop'd at the Foot of the Mountain.

The Princess light off her Horse, stopp'd her Ears with Cotton, and after she had well examined the way she was to go, to get up to the Top, she began, with a moderate Pace, and walk'd up with Intrepidity. She heard the Voices, and perceived the great Service the Cotton was to her. The higher she went, the louder the Voices seem'd but were not capable of making any Impression on her. She heard a great many affronting, base Things, which were very disagreeable to a Woman, which she only laugh'd at. I mind not, said she to her self, all that can be said; I only laugh at them, and shall pursue my Way. At last she got so high, that she began to perceive the Cage and Bird, which endeavour'd, with the Voices, to fright her, crying in a Voice as loud as them, notwithstanding the Smallness of its Size, Retire Fool, and come no higher.

The Princess encouraged more by this Object, redoubl'd her Haste, when she saw her self just at her Journey's End, and got to the Top of the Mountain, where the Ground was all level and even; and running directly to the Cage, and clapping her Hand upon it, cry'd, Bird, Bird, I have got thee, in Spite of thee, thou shalt not escape me.

While Princess *Parizade* was pulling the Cotton out of her Ears, the Bird said to her, Brave Lady, be not angry with me, for endeavouring to preserve my Liberty; for tho' kept in a Cage, I was content with my Condition; but since I am destin'd to be a Slave, I would rather be yours, than any other Person's in the World, since you have obtained me so courageously: From this Instant, I swear an universal Fidelity to you, and an intire Submission to your Commands. I know, who you are, and can tell you, it is what you do not know your self; but the Time will come, when I shall do you a Piece of Service, which I hope you will be oblig'd to me for; and for a Proof of my Sincerity, tell me what you desire, and I am ready to obey you.

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The Princeſs's Joy was the more inexpressible, because the Conquest she had made, had cost her the Lives of two beloved Brothers, and given her more Trouble and Fatigue, than she could have imagined; notwithstanding, what the Dervise had represented to her. Bird, said she, it was my Intention to have told you, I wish for a great many Things, which are of the last Importance to me; and am overjoy'd, that you have your own self prevented me first. I have been told, that there is a Golden Water not far off, the Property of which, is very wonderful, and above all Things, I want to know where it is. The Bird shewed her the Place, which was just by, and she went and filled a little silver Flagon, she had brought along with her. Then she said to the Bird, Bird, this is not enough, I want also the Singing Tree; tell me, where it is. Turn about, said the Bird, and you will see a Wood behind you, where you will find the Tree. The Princess went into the Wood, and by the harmonious Concert she heard, she soon knew the Tree, which she found so large, that she said to the Bird, which she always carried along with her, Well, now, Bird, I have found this Tree, I know not what to do with it, since I can neither carry it, nor pull it up by the Roots. Reply'd the Bird, it is enough, that you break off a Branch, and carry it to plant in your Garden; it will take Root as soon as it is clapt into the Earth, and in a little Time, will grow to as fine a Tree, as this you see.

When the Princess *Parizade* had the three Things in her Hand, which the Religious Woman had told her of, and she conceived so great a Desire of, she said again to the Bird, All that thou hast done for me yet, Bird, is not enough; thou hast been the Cause of the Death of my two Brothers, who ought to be among the black Stones, I saw, as I came up the Hill; and I want to take them Home along with me.

The Bird would fain have been dispensed with, from satisfying the Princess in this Point, and indeed made some Difficulty to do it. Bird, said the Princess, remember you told me, that you were my Slave, and in short, thou art so; and thy Life is in my Disposal. I cannot deny the Truth, answered the Bird, but altho,' what you now ask of me,

is a more difficult Thing than all the rest, yet I will do it for you. Cast your Eyes about you, added he, and look if you can see a little Pitcher. I see it already, said the Princess. Take it then, said he, and going down the Hill, spill a little of the Water, that is in it, upon every Black Stone, and that will be the Way to find your Brothers again.

The Princess *Parizade* took up the Pitcher, Cage and Bird, Flagon of Golden Water, and the Branch of the Singing Tree, and as she went down the Hill again, spilt a little of the Water on every Black Stone, which was changed immediately either into a Man, or Horse; and as she did not miss one Stone, she found both her Brothers, as well as a great many fine Gentlemen, and all their Horses. She presently knew Prince *Bahman*, and Prince *Perviz*, as they did likewise her, and all ran to embrace each other, expressing a great Amazement. What do you here, Brothers, said she? They told her, they had been asleep. Yes, reply'd she, and if it had not been for me, perhaps, might have slept for ever! Don't you remember, that you came here, for to fetch the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and the Yellow Water? and did not you see, as you came along, a great many Black Stones? See if there be any now. If you desire to know, how this Miracle was performed, continued she, shewing the Pitcher, which she set down at the Foot of the Mountain, it was done by the Virtue of the Water, which was in this Pitcher, with which I sprinkled every Stone; for, added she, after I had made this Talking Bird my Slave, by his Directions, I found out the Singing Tree; a Branch of which, I have now in my Hand, and the Yellow Water, which this Flagon is filled with: But being still unwilling to return Home without you, I constrained the Bird by the Power I had over him, to afford me the Means, upon which he told me where to find this Pitcher, and the use I was to make of it.

Prince *Bahman* and Prince *Perviz*, knew by this Discourse, the Obligation they had to the Princess their Sister, and all the other Gentlemen were all so sensible of theirs to the Princess, that, far from envying her Happiness in the Conquest she had made, and they all aspired to, they thought that they could not any otherwise acknowledge the Favour she had done them, in restoring them to Life again,
than

than by declaring them all her Slaves, and that they were ready to obey her in whatever she should command.

Gentlemen, reply'd the Princess, if you had given any Attention to my Discourse, you might have observed, that I had no other Intention in what I have done, than to find out my Brothers again; therefore, if you have received any Benefit, you have no Obligation to me for it, and I have no other Share in your Compliment, than what common Civility requires, and return you my Thanks, as I ought; moreover, I look upon you in every Particular, as free Persons now, as you were before your Misfortunes, and rejoice with you for the Benefit and Happiness, which happened to you, on my Account: But let us stay no longer, in a Place where we have nothing to detain us, but mount our Horses and return to our own Homes.

The Princess *Parizade* shewed them the way first, and went, and took her Horse, which stood in the same Place where she left him. Before she mounted, Prince *Bahman* who would help her, desired her to give him the Cage to carry. Brother, reply'd the Princess, the Bird is my Slave, and I'll carry him my self; but there's the Branch of the Singing Tree, if you would take the Pains to carry that; but hold the Cage, while I get on Horse-back. When she had mounted her Horse, and Prince *Bahman* had given her the Cage, she turned about and said to Prince *Perviz*, Brother, I leave the Flagon of Golden Water to your Care, if it will not be too great a Trouble for you to carry.

When Prince *Bahman* and Prince *Perviz*, and all the Gentlemen, had mounted their Horses, the Princess *Parizade* waited for some of them, to lead the Way first. The two Princes paid that Compliment to the Gentlemen, and they again to the Princess, who finding, that none of them would accept of the Honour, but that it was reserved for her, address'd herself to them, and said, Gentlemen, I expect, that some of you should lead the Way, to which one, in the Name of the rest, reply'd, Madam, were we Strangers to your being a Woman, yet after what you have done for us, there is no Honour we would not willingly pay you, notwithstanding all your Modesty; therefore desire, you will not deprive us any longer of the Happiness of following you.

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Gentlemen, said the Princess, I don't deserve the Honour you do me, and accept of it only because you desire it. At the same time she led the Way, and the two Princes, and Gentlemen, followed her, without the least Distinction.

This illustrious Company call'd upon the Dervise, as they pass'd by, to thank him for his good Reception, and wholesome Advice, which they all found very sincere; but he was dead: But whether old Age, or that he was no longer necessary to shew the Way to the obtaining the three Rarities, which the Princess *Parizade* was possess'd of, they were doubtful in. Afterwards they pursu'd their Way, but lessen'd in their Numbers every Day: The Gentlemen taking their Leaves handsomely, and testyfyng their Obligations to the Princess; who, with her Brothers, made the best of their Way.

As soon as the Princess came Home, she placed the Cage in the Garden, just by the Hall; and the Bird no sooner began to sing, but he was surrounded by Nightingales, Chatfinches, Goldfinches, Larks, Linnets, and a great many other Sorts of Birds. As for the Branch of the singing Tree, it was no sooner set in the midst of the Parterre, some Distance from the House, but it took Root, and in a little Time, became a large Tree; the Leaves of which, in a short Time, gave as harmonious a Concert, as those of the Tree, from which it was gathered. As to the Flaggon of the Yellow Golden Water, a large Marble Bason was made in the midst of another Parterre, and when it was finished, the Princess pour'd all the Yellow Water, that was in the Flaggon, into it, which increased, and swell'd so much, that it soon reach'd up to the Edges of the Bason, and afterwards form'd a Fountain twenty Foot high, which fell again into the Bason, without a Drop running over.

The News of these Wonders was presently spread abroad in that Neighbourhood; and as the Doors of the House, and those of the Gardens, were shut to no Body, great Bands of People came to admire them.

Some Days after that, the Princes *Bahman* and *Perviz*, had recover'd themselves, of the Fatigue of their Journey, they began to renew their former Way of living; and as their greatest Diversion was Hunting, they mounted the Horses and went, not in their Park, but two or three Leagues from their own House; but as it happened, that they

they had made Choice of the same Spot of Ground, where the Sultan of *Persia* was then hunting; when they perceived it, they left off their Chase, and retired, to avoid meeting him; but for all their Care, and Caution, they chanced to chop upon him, in so streight and narrow a Way, that they could not turn back, without being seen. In their Surprise, they had only Time to prostrate themselves before the Sultan, without lifting up their Heads to look at him. The Sultan, who saw they were well mounted and dressed, had the Curiosity to see their Faces; therefore stopt, and commanded them to rise. The Princes, when they rose up, stood before the Sultan, with so easy an Air, and at the same time, with so great Modesty, that the Sultan took some Time to view them from Head to Foot, before he spoke: And after he had admired their good Air and Mein, he asked them, who they were? and where they lived?

Sir, said Prince *Bahman*, we are the Sons of your Majesty's late Intendant of your Gardens, and we live in a House, which he built, a little before he died, for us to live in, till we should be fit to serve your Majesty.

By what I perceive by you, reply'd the Sultan, you love Hunting. Sir, answered Prince *Bahman*, it is our common Exercise, your Majesty's Subjects, who intend to bear Arms, or serve in your Wars, ought not, according to the Customs of the Kingdom, to neglect. The Sultan charmed with so prudent an Answer, said, since it is so, I should be glad to see you hunt some wild Beast; make Choice of which you please.

The Princes mounted their Horses again, followed the Sultan; but had not gone far, before they saw a great many wild Beasts together. Prince *Bahman* chose a Lion, and Prince *Perviz* a Bear; and pursued them with so much intrepid Courage, that the Sultan was surprized. In short, they darted their Javelins with so much Skill, and Address, that they pierced, the one his Lion, and the other his Bear, quite thro' and thro', that the Sultan saw them die with his own Eyes. Immediately afterwards Prince *Bahman* pursued a Bear and Prince *Perviz* another Lion, and killed them in a short Time, and would have beat out for fresh Game, but the Sultan, who would not let them, sent to them, to come to him. When they came
nigh

nigh enough, that they could hear him, he said, If I would have given you Leave, you would soon have destroyed all my Game: But it is not that which I would preserve, but your Persons; for I am so very well assured of your Bravery, which may one Time, or other, be serviceable to me, that from this Moment, your Lives will be always dear to me.

The Sultan *Khosrouschah*, in short, conceived so great a Kindness for the two Princes, that he invited them, at that Time, to go and make him a Visit: To which Prince *Bahman* reply'd, your Majesty does us an Honour we do not deserve; and therefore we beg you will excuse us.

The Sultan, who could not comprehend, what Reason the Princes could have to refuse this Token of his Favour, asked, and pressed them to tell him, why they excused themselves. Sir, said Prince *Bahman*, we have a Sister, with whom we live in so perfect an Union, that we do nothing before we consult her, nor she any Thing without asking our Advice. I commend your Brotherly Agreement, answered the Sultan. Consult your Sister, and meet me here to Morrow a hunting, and give me an Answer.

The Princes went Home, but not only forgot to speak of their Adventure in meeting the Sultan, and hunting with him but to tell the Princes, how he had invited them to go Home with him but yet did not the next Morning fail to meet him at the Place appointed. Well, said the Sultan, have your spoke to your Sister; and has she consented to the Pleasure I expect of seeing you at my Palace. The two Princes look'd at each other and blushed. Sir, said Prince *Bahman*, we beg of your Majesty, to excuse us; for both my Brother, and I, forgot. Then remember, to Day, reply'd the Sultan, and be sure to bring me an Answer to Morrow.

The Princes were guilty of the same Fault a second Time; yet the Sultan was so good natured, as to forgive their Negligence: But to prevent their Forgetfulness the third Time, he pulled three Gold Bullets out of a Purse, and put them into Prince *Bahman's* Bottom. These Bullets, said he smiling, will prevent your forgetting a third Time, since the Noise they will make by falling on the Floor, when you undress your self, will remind you in case you should forget. And indeed, the Thing happened out,

as

as the Sultan foresaw it would; and without these Bullets the Princes had not thought of speaking to their Sister of this Affair; for as Prince *Bahman* unloosed his Girdle to go to Bed, the Bullets dropp'd on the Floor, and thereupon he ran into Prince *Perviz*'s Chamber, and both went into the Princess *Parizade*'s Apartment, before she was got into Bed, and after they had asked her Pardon, for coming at so unseasonable a Time, they told her all the Circumstances of their meeting the Sultan.

The Princess *Parizade* was something surprized at this News. Your Meeting with the Sultan, said she, is very happy and honourable, and in the End may be very advantageous to you, but may be ill for me. 'Twas upon my Account, I know, you refused the Sultan, and I am infinitely obliged to you for it, and find your Friendship is perfectly consisting with mine, since you would rather be guilty of ill Manners towards the Sultan, than break in upon the Brotherly Union we have sworn to each other: You judged right; for if you had once gone, you would insensibly have been engaged to leave me to go and pay your Respects to him: But do you think it an easy Matter, absolutely to refuse the Sultan, what he so earnestly desires; for Sultans will be obeyed in their Desires, and it may be dangerous to oppose them; therefore it to follow my Inclination, I should dissuade you from shewing your Complaisance he expects from you, he may expose you to his Repentment, and may render my self, and you, miserable. These are my Sentiments; but before we conclude on any Thing, led us consult the Talking Bird, and hear what he says. He is penetrating, and has promised his Assistance in all Difficulties.

The Princess *Parizade* sent for the Cage, and after she had related the Fact to the Bird in the Presence of her Brothers, she asked him, what they should do in those perplexed Circumstances? The Bird answered; The Princes your Brothers must conform with the Sultan's Pleasure, and in their Turn, invite him to come and see your House.

But Bird, reply'd the Princess, my Brothers and I love one another, and our Friendship is unparalleled: Will not this Step be injurious to that Friendship? Not at all, reply'd the Bird, but it will become stronger thereby. Then answered

swered the Princess, The Sultan shall see me. The Bird told her, it was necessary he should, and that every Thing would go better afterwards.

The next Morning the Princes met the Sultan a hunting, who, when he came near enough to them, to be heard, asked them if they had remembered to speak to their Sister? and was answered by Prince *Bahman*, Sir, your Majesty may dispose of us as you please; we are ready to obey you; for we have not only obtained our Sister's Consent, with a great deal of Ease, but she took it amiss, that we should pay her that Deference, in a Matter wherein our Duty to your Majesty was concerned: But you are so good, that if we have offended, we hope you will pardon us. Don't be uneasy upon that Account, reply'd the Sultan, I am so far from taking what you have done amiss, that I approve of it, and hope you will have the same Deference and Attachment to my Person, for the little Share I have in your Friendship. The Princes confounded at the Sultan's Goodness, returned no other Answer, but by a low Bow, to shew the great Respect, with which they received it.

The Sultan, contrary to his usual Custom, did not hunt long that Day; he judged, that the Princes Wit, was equal to their Courage and Bravery, and longed, with Impatience, to be more at Liberty to discourse with them; he made them ride on each Side of him, which Honours, without speaking of the principal Courtiers, was envied by the Grand Visier, who was very much mortified to see them preferred before him.

When the Sultan entred his Capital, the Eyes of the People, who stood in Crowds in the Streets, were fixed only upon the two Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz*, and they were earnest to know, who they might be, whether Foreigners or Natives?

However, they all wished, that the Sultan had been blessed with two such handsome lovely Princes; and said, he might have had Children as old, if the Sultaness had not had such Misfortunes in her Lyings in.

The first Thing, that the Sultan did, when he arrived at his Palace, was to carry the Princes into the principal Apartment, who praised with Judgment, the Beauty and Symmetry of the Rooms, and the Richness of the Furniture and Ornaments. Afterwards a magnificent Repast was served

served up, and the Sultan made them sit at the same Table with him, which they, at first, refused, but finding, that it was his Pleasure, they at last obeyed.

The Sultan, who had himself a great deal of Wit, and had made a considerable Progress in the Arts and Sciences, and particularly in History, foresaw, that the Princes out of Modesty, and Respect, would not take the Liberty of beginning any Conversation; therefore to give them an Opportunity, he furnished them with Subject all Dinner-Time; but whatever they talked on, they shewed so much Wit, Judgment, and Discernment, that he was struck with Admiration. Were these my own Children, said he to himself, and I had given them all the Education suitable to their Births, they could not have been better instructed, or known more: In short, he took so great a Pleasure in their Conversation, that after having sat at Table longer than usual, he went into his Closet, where he discoursed a long Time with them, and at last said to them, I never believed, that there were young Gentlemen in the Country, who had so much Wit and Politeness; and I never was better pleased in my Life, with any Conversation: But it is Time now we should regale our Senses with some Diversions of my Court; and as nothing is more capable of enlivening the Mind, than Musick, you shall hear a Vocal and Instrumental Consort, which may not be disagreeable to you.

The Sultan no sooner spoke for them, but the Musicians, who had Orders to attend, entered, and answered very well the Expectations the Princes had entertained of their Abilities. After the Consort, an extraordinary Play was acted; and the Entertainment was concluded by some excellent Dancers, both Men and Women.

The two Princes seeing Night draw on apace, prostrated themselves at the Sultan's Feet; and having first thanked him for the Favours, and Honour they had received, asked his Leave to retire, which was granted them by the Sultan, who said, I give you my Leave to go; but remember, I brought you to my Palace, my self, to shew you the Way; and the oftner you come, the welcomer you shall be; and you will do me the greater Pleasure.

Before they went out of the Sultan's Presence, Prince *Bahman* said, Sir, shall we so bold, as to beg of your Majesty,

ty, to do us, and our Sister, the Favour, next Time you pass near our House a hunting, to call to rest and refresh your self, after the Fatigue: It is not worthy your Presence; but Monarchs sometimes have vouchsafed to take Shelter in a Hut. Gentlemen, reply'd the Sultan, your House cannot be otherwise than beautiful, and worthy of you. I'll call and see it with Pleasure, which will be the greater, to have you, and your fair Sister, to be my Hosts, who is already dear to me, before I have seen her, from the Account you give me of the rare Qualities with which she is endowed; and this Satisfaction I'll defer no longer than till to Morrow: Meet me to Morrow Morning early, at the same Place, where I first saw you; and then you shall be my Guides.

When the Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz* went Home; they gave the Princess *Parizade* an Account of the honourable Reception the Sultan had given them; and withal, told her, that they had invited him, to do them the Honour, as he pass'd by, to call at their House, and that he had appointed the next day.

If it be so, reply'd the Princess, we must think presently of preparing a Repast fit for his Majesty: and for that End, I think, it would be proper we should consult the Talking Bird; he will tell us, perhaps, what Meats the Sultan likes best. The Princes approved of her Thought, and after they retired, she consulted the Bird alone. Bird, said she, the Sultan will do us the Honour to Morrow, to come and see us, and our House, What shall we entertain him with? Tell us what we shall do to acquit our selves, in the most handsome Manner possible.

Good Mistress, reply'd the Bird, you have excellent Cooks, let them do the best they can; but above all Things, let them prepare a Dish of Cucumbers, stuffed full of Pearls, which must be set before the Sultan in the first Course, before all other Meats.

Cucumbers stuffed full of Pearls! cry'd Princess *Parizade*, with Amazement; surely, Bird, you don't know what you say; 'tis an unheard of Dish: The Sultan may admire it for a Piece of Magnificence; but he will want something to eat, and not to admire Pearls: But moreover, where shall I get Pearls enough for such a Dish.

Mistress, said the Bird, do what I bid you, and do not be uneasy at what shall happen. As to the Pearls, go early to Morrow Morning, to the Foot of the first Tree, on your right Hand, in the Park, and dig under it, and you will find what you want.

That Night the Princess ordered a Gardiner to be ready to wait on her; and the next Morning early, took him with her, and carried him to the Tree the Bird told her of, and bid him dig about a Foot deep. When the Gardiner came to the Depth, he found some Resistance with the Spade, and presently discovered a Gold Box, about a Foot Square, which he shewed the Princess. This, said she, is what I brought thee for; take care not to hurt it with thy Spade.

When the Gardiner took up the Box, he gave it into the Princess Hands, who, as it was only fastned with little Hasps, soon opened it, and found it full of Pearls, of a moderate Size. Very well satisfied with having found this Treasure, after she had shut the Box again, she clapt it under her Arm, and went into the House, while the Gardiner threw the Earth into the Hole, and laid the green Turf on again, as before.

The Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz*, who, as they were dressing themselves in their own Apartments, saw the Princess, their Sister, in the Garden, earlier than usual: As soon as they could get dressed, they went to go to her, and met her, as she was coming back, with a Gold Box under her Arm, which very much surprized them. Sister, said *Bahman*, you carried nothing with you, when we saw you before with the Gardiner, and now we see you have got a Golden Box: Was this Treasure found by the Gardiner, and did he come and tell you of it?

No, Brother, answered the Princess, I carried the Gardiner to the Place where this Coffin was hid, and shewed him where to dig: But you will be more amazed, when you see what it holds.

The Princess opened the Box, and when the Princes saw the considerable Quantity of Pearls, which, tho' small, were of great Value, they asked her, how she came to the Knowledge of this Treasure? The Princess, as they returned back to the House, gave them an Account of her
con-

consulting the Bird, as they had agreed she should, and the Answer he gave her, to prepare a Dish of Cucumbers, stuffed full of Pearls, and how he had told her, where to find this Box. The Princes and Princess raised a great many Conjectures, to penetrate into what the Bird could mean by such a Dish; and tho' they could not by any means guess at his Reason for so doing, they nevertheless followed his Advice.

As soon as the Princess got into the House she called for the Head-Cook; and after she had given him Direction about the Entertainment for the Sultan, she said to him, Besides all this, you must dress an extraordinary Dish for the Sultan's own Eating, which no Body else must touch besides your self. This Dish must be Cucumbers stuffed with these Pearls; and at the same Time she opened the Box, and shewed him the Pearls.

The chief Cook, who had never heard of such a Dish, started back, and shewed, by his Looks, his Thoughts, which the Princess penetrating into, said, I see thou takest me to be mad, to order such a Dish; but thou must know, I have my Reasons for so doing; therefore go and do the best thou canst, and bring me back what Pearls are left. The Cook made no reply, but took the Box and went away. And afterwards the Princess gave Directions to all the Servants, to have every thing in Order, both in the House and Gardens, to receive the Sultan.

The two Princes went to the Place appointed; and as soon as the Sultan of *Persia* came, they began a Chase, which lasted till the Heat of the Sun obliged them to leave off; and while Prince *Bahman* stayed to conduct the Sultan to their House, Prince *Perviz* rode before to inform the Princess *Parizade*, who had been told, by some Servants before, and was ready to receive him.

When the Sultan entered the Court Yard, and light at the Porch, the Princess *Parizade* came and threw her self at his Feet, and the two Princes informed him, she was their Sister.

The Sultan stooped to help her up, and after he had gazed some Time on her Beauty, and was dazzled with her good Mien, noble Air, and a *Jene Scai Quoi*, which seemed foreign to a Country Life, he said; The Brothers are

worthy the Sister, and she worthy of them ; and to judge of her Sense by her Person, I am not amazed, that the Brothers would do nothing without her Consent : But added he, I hope to be better acquainted with you, Madam, after I have seen the House.

Sir, said the Princess, it is only a plain Country-House, and fit for none but such People as we are, who live retired from the World : It is not to be compared with the Houses in great Cities, much less with such a magnificent Palace as yours. I am of another Opinion, said the Sultan, very obligingly ; for by its first Appearance, it seems otherwise. However, I won't pass my Judgment any farther upon it, till I have seen it all ; therefore be pleased to conduct me thro' the Apartments.

Then the Princess led the Sultan thro' all the Rooms but the Hall, who after he had considered them very attentively, was mightily taken, both with them and their Furniture. My fair one, said he to the Princess *Parizade*, do you call this a Country-House ? The finest, and largest Cities would soon be deserted, if all Country-Houses were like yours. I am not all surprized, that you take so much Delight in it, and despise the Town so much : Now let me see, if the Gardens be answerable to the House.

The Princess opened a Door into the Garden ; and the first Object, which presented it self to the Sultan's View, was the Golden Fountain. Surprized at so rare a Sight, he asked, from whence that wonderful Water, which gave him so much Pleasure, had its Rise ? and by what Art it was made to play so high, that nothing in the World was to be compared to it ? and said he would, by and by, take a nearer View of it.

Then the Princess led him to the Spot where the harmonious Tree was planted ; and there the Sultan heard a Consort, which was different from, and exceeded all the Consorts he had ever heard in his Life ; and stopping to see where the Musicians were, he could discern no Body, either far or near ; but still heard the Musick distinctly, which ravish'd his Senses. My fair one, said he to the Princess *Parizade*, where are the Musicians : Are they under Ground, or invisible in the Air ; for certainly, such excellent charming Voices, will not run the Hazard of being seen, for fear they should please too much.

Sir,

Sir, answered the Princess smiling, 'tis the Tree, your Majesty sees before you, and not Musicians, which form this Consort ; and if you will give your self the Trouble to go a little nearer to it, you will not doubt of it ; and the Voices will be the more distinct.

The Sultan went nearer, and was so charmed with the sweet Harmony, that he could have stay'd for ever, to hear it ; but that his Desire to see the Fountain of Yellow Water nearer, forc'd him away. Fair one, said he, tell me I pray you, whether this wonderful Tree was found in your Garden by Chance, or if it was a Present made you from some Foreign Country ? For certainly, it must have come a great way off, otherwise, curious as I am of these Rarities, I should have heard of it ? What Name do you call it by ?

Sir, reply'd the Princess, this Tree has no other Name than that of the Singing Tree, and is not a Native of this Country. It will be too long to tell you here the Adventures relating to it, the Yellow Water, and the Talking Bird, which your Majesty may see after the Golden Water ; but if it may be agreeable to your Majesty, after you have refresh'd your self, and recovered the Fatigue of Hunting, which was the greater, because of the Sun's intense Heat, you shall hear it.

My fair one, reply'd the Sultan, my Fatigue is so well recompensed, by the wonders you have shewn me, that I am not in the least weary, but am impatient to see the Yellow Water, and admire the Talking Bird.

When the Sultan came to the Yellow Water, his Eyes were fixed steadfastly upon the Fountain, that he could not take them off ; at last, addressing himself to the Princess, he said, As you tell me, fair One, that this Water has no Spring, nor Communication hereabout, by any Means whatsoever, I apprehend, that it is Foreign, as well as the Singing Tree.

Sir, reply'd the Princess, it is as your Majesty says, and to let you know, that this Water has no Communication with any Spring, I must tell you that the Basin, is one intire Stone, hew'd out in that Form : But what your Majesty may think most wonderful, is, that all this Water proceeded but from one Flaggon-full, which I threw into this Basin, which increased of it self to the Quantity you see,

(a particular Quality of this Water) and form'd this Fountain. Well, said the Sultan, going from the Fountain, this is enough for one Time; I promise my self the Pleasure to come and visit it very often; but now, let us go see the Talking Bird.

Going towards the Hall, the Sultan perceived a prodigious Number of Singing Birds, in the Trees thereabouts, and asked, why there were so many there, and none on the other Trees in the Garden? The Reason, Sir, answered the Princess, is, because they come from all Parts about, to keep the talking Bird company, which your Majesty may perceive in a Cage, just by the Window of the Hall we are going into; and if you do but mind, you will perceive, that his Notes are sweeter than all the Birds, even the Nightingal's.

The Sultan went into the Hall; and as the Bird kept singing, the Princess raised her Voice, said, My Slave, here's the Sultan, pay your Compliment to him. The Bird left off singing that Instant, and said, The Sultan is welcome here; God prosper him, and prolong his Life. To which the Sultan reply'd, as he was sitting down at the Table, Bird, I thank thee, and am overjoyed to find in thee, the Sultan, and King of Birds.

As soon as the Sultan saw the Dish of Cucumbers set before him, he reached out his Hand, and took one; but when he cut it he was in an extream Surprize, to find it stuffed with Pearls. What Novelty is this, said he? and with what Design were these Cucumbers stuffed thus with Pearls? since Pearls are not to be eat? then he looked at the two Princes, and the Princess, to ask them the Meaning of it; when the Bird interrupting him, said, Can your Majesty be in so great an Astonishment at Cucumbers stuffed with Pearls, which you see with your own Eyes, and yet could so easily believe, that the Sultaness your Wife was delivered of a Dog, a Cat, and a Piece of Wood. I believe it, reply'd the Sultan, because the Midwives assured me of it. Those Midwives, Sir, reply'd the Bird, were the Sultaness's Sisters, who envious of her Happiness, in being preferred by your Majesty, before them, to satisfy their Envy and Revenge, have abused your Majesty so easily, If you interrogate them, they will confess their Crime. The Two Brothers, and the Sister, whom you
see

see before you, are your own Children, which were exposed, and received by the Intendant of your Gardens, who provided Nurses for them, and took care of their Education.

This Discourse of the Bird's presently cleared up the Sultan's Understanding. Bird, cryed he, I easily believe the Truth, which thou discoverest to me. The Inclination and Tenderneſs, I have always had for them, tell me but too plainly, they are my own Blood. Come then, my Children, and embrace me, and let me give you the first Marks of a Fatherly Tenderneſs. Then he rose up, and after having kissed the two Princes, and the Princess, and mingled his Tears with theirs, he said, I now embrace you as my own Children of the Royal Blood of the Sultans of *Persia*, whose Honour and Glory, I am perswaded, you will maintain; and not as the Children of the Intendant of my Gardens; to whom I have been very much obliged for preserving your Lives.

After the two Princes and the Princess had embraced mutually, with an intirely new Satisfaction, the Sultan sat down at the Table again with them, and pressed them to eat; and when they had done, he said, My Children, you know me to be your Father; to Morrow I will bring you the Sultaness, your Mother; therefore prepare to receive her.

Afterwards the Sultan mounted his Horse, and returned in all Haste to his Capital, where the first Thing he did, as soon as he light, was, to command his Grand-Vizier to take out a Proceſs against the Sultaness's two Sisters, and take them, and have them examined, and interrogated ſeparately; and accordingly they were try'd, and condemned to be quartered, which Sentence was put in Execution immediately.

In the mean Time the Sultan *Khofrouſchah*, followed by all the Lords of his Court, who were then present, went to the Door of the great Mosque; and after he had taken the Sultaness out of the ſtrict Confinement, ſhe had languished under, for many Years, he ſaid to her, with Tears in his Eyes, and embracing her in the miſerable Condition ſhe was then in, I come, Madam, to ask your pardon for the injustice I have done you, and to make you the Reparation I ought to do; which I have begun, by puniſhing the
Persons,

Persons, who put the abominable Cheat upon me; and I hope, you will look upon it as sufficient, when I present to you two accomplished Princes, and a charming lovely Princess, our Children, and restore you to your former Honours. All this was done and said before great Crowds of People, who immediately spread the News throughout the Town.

The next Morning early, the Sultan and Sultaneſs, whose mournful Weeds were changed into magnificent Habits, went with all their Court to the House built by the Intendant of the Gardens, where the Sultan presented the Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz*, and the Princess *Parizade*, to the Sultaneſs. These Madam, said he, are the two Princes your Sons, and this Princess your Daughter; embrace them with the same Tenderness I have done, since they are worthy, both of me and you. Then Tears flowed plentifully down their Cheeks, at these tender Embraces, especially, the Sultaneſs's, for the Joy of having two such Princes for her Sons, and such a Princess for a Daughter, after the Afflictions she had endured upon their Accounts.

The two Princes and the Princess prepared a magnificent Repast for the Sultan and Sultaneſs, and their Court. As soon as that was over, the Sultan led the Sultaneſs into the Garden, and shewed her the harmonious Tree, and beautiful Fountain. As for the Bird she had seen him in his Cage; and the Sultan had spared no Panegyrick in his Praise, during the Repast.

When there was nothing to detain the Sultan any longer he took Horse again, and with the Princes, *Bahman* and *Perviz*, on his right and left Hand, and the Sultaneſs and the Princess following them, preceded and followed by all the Officers of his Court, according to their Posts, returned back to his Capital. Crowds of People came out to meet them, and with Acclamations of Joy usher'd them into the City, where all the Peoples Eyes were not only upon the Sultaneſs, the two Princes and the Princess, but also upon the Bird, which the Princess carried before her in his Cage, and who by his sweet Notes, had drawn Flocks of all Sorts of Birds about him, which followed him, by flying from Tree to Tree, and from one House Top to another; and nothing was to be seen,
and

and heard all that Night, But Illuminations, and Acclamations of Joy, from the Palace, to the utmost Parts of the Town.

The Sultan of the *Indies* could not but admire the prodigious Memory of the Sultaneſs his Wife, who had entertained and diverted him ſo many Nights with ſuch new and agreeable Stories, that he believed her Stock was inexhaustible.

A thouſand and one Nights had paſſed away in theſe agreeable and innocent Amuſements, which contributed ſo much towards removing the Sultan's fatal Prejudice againſt all Women; and ſweetning the Violence of his Temper, that he conceived a great Eſteem for the Sultaneſs *Scheherazade*, and was convinced of her Merit and great Wiſdom, and remembred with what Courage ſhe expoſed her ſelf voluntarily to be his Wife, knowing the fatal Deſtiny of the many Sultaneſſes before her.

Theſe Conſiderations, and the many rare Qualities he knew her to be Miſtreſs of, induced him at laſt to forgive her. I ſee lovely *Scheherazade*, ſaid he, that you can never be at a loſs for theſe Sort of Stories to divert me; therefore I renounce, in your Favour, the cruel Law I had impoſed on my ſelf; and I will have you to be looked upon, as the Deliverer of the many Damſels I had reſolved to have ſacrificed to my unjuſt Reſentment.

The Sultaneſs caſt herſelf at his Feet, and embraced them with the Marks of a moſt lively and ſincere Acknowledgment.

The Grand Vizier was the firſt that learned this agreeable News from the Sultan's own Mouth, which preſently was carried to all the Towns, and Provinces; and gained the Sultan, and the lovely *Scheherazade*, the Bleſſings of all the People of the large Empire of the *Indies*.

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